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CONTENTS: Vol. LIII. No. 25.

	PAGE		PAGE
Australasian News	983	Irish News	981
Bankruptcies and Failures	984	Legal Reports	982
British Pharmacopœia, 1898.		Marriage	935
Indian and Colonial Ad-		Miscellaneous Inquiries	983
dendum	981	New Companies and Company	
Business Changes	985	News	985
Cape Pharmacy Bill	983	Personalities	985
Colonial and Foreign News	984	Pharmaceutical Society of Great	
Coming Events	984	Britain:—	
Correspondence	987	Benevolent Fund	985
Deaths	988	Evening Meeting	985
Deal of Arrangement	985	Paying the Fees	985
Editorial Comments:—		Pharmaceutical Society of Ire-	
The Federation Programme ..	978	land:—	
A New Rival in Foreign		Council Meeting	986
Trade	979	Evening Meeting	983
Future Pharmacopœia Revi-		Scotch News	981
sion	980	South African News	985
Notes	981	Spectacle-makers' Company ..	976
English News	959	Students' Corner	958
Festivities	976	Trade Notes	977
French News	982	Trade Report	990
Gazette	985	Winter Session	969
Information Wanted	989		

DIARY COMPETITION.

EACH copy of our 1899 DIARY contains a voting coupon which entitles the receiver to compete for ten guineas which we offer in prizes for the best answer to the questions given on the card. We should like to have a good response this year, and those who examine the DIARY advertisements will find it a profitable pleasure.

OUR WINTER NUMBER.

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST Winter Number will be published on January 23, 1899. We can insert circulars and price-lists in that issue, and any firms who are thinking of making a good advertisement of this kind to the drug-trade cannot do better than ask the *C. & D.* publisher what he would advise. It is important to place orders with us as soon as possible. There is no question of the advantage of this method of distributing circulars to the trade. The cost by the *C. & D.* way is about a fourth of what it is sending singly by circular-post; we see that every one of our insets gets to a live business-man, and we save advertisers all the worry and trouble of addressing, &c.

Summary.

THE BRADFORD CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION has given a children's party (p. 972).

FOUR NEW ANNUITANTS have been elected for pensions from the Benevolent Fund (p. 965).

OUR STUDENT'S CORNER TOURNAMENT is becoming lively. The competitors seem to be doing good work (p. 958).

MR. D. S. KEMP communicates some notes on the proposed Indian and Colonial Addendum to the B.P. (p. 931).

MR. EBERLIN discussed the new British Pharmacopœia before the Nottingham Association on Wednesday (p. 975).

PROFESSOR WALTER SMITH lectured to the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland this week on "Incompatibles" (p. 938).

MR. J. RYMER YOUNG has contributed a commentary on the Pharmacy Act, 1868, to the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association (p. 973).

THE CHEMICAL SECTION OF THE LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE has taken up the drawback-question involved by the new B.P. (p. 980).

SOME PRACTICAL TOPICS were discussed at the Liverpool Chemists' Society last week, the meeting being the last of the forty-ninth session (p. 969).

THE UNITED STATES is now making a bold bid for foreign trade, and the Government is encouraging merchants and manufacturers strongly (p. 979).

SIR WILLIAM JENNER, the eminent physician, died on Sunday. We also record the death of Mr. Joseph Bosisto, who introduced eucalyptus oil (pp. 983 and 987).

CAMWAL'S REPORT shows an increase of 287 shareholders, and a net profit of 6,054 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. are recommended (p. 986).

THE FEDERATION'S RESOLUTIONS have had a good showing at local chemists' associations this week, much of our Winter Session section being taken up by them (pp. 969-976).

A DENTIST who took a chemist's shop, and engaged a qualified chemist to conduct, has been fined under the Pharmacy Act for keeping open shop for the sale of poisons (p. 982).

THE DETERMINED OPPOSITION of the pharmacists of the South-East of France to non-profitable medicinal specialities has taken tangible form in a working Society (p. 962).

THE REPORT OF HOMOECA (LIMITED) has much disappointed the shareholders. It shows a profit of only 430 $\frac{1}{2}$ %, and this is only got by suspending over 9,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ worth of advertising (p. 936).

MR. JOHN BARCLAY has reported to the Midland Pharmaceutical Association on B.P. tinctures, giving valuable data and showing that the new tr. strophanthi is stronger than the old (p. 970).

SIR ALFRED MILNER, the High Commissioner of Cape Colony, has promised to give the question of labelling proprietary medicines with the formulæ thereof his most earnest consideration (p. 963).

THE MARKETS show a good tone, but there are few alterations to report. Changes in the prices of quinine salts have been announced; the sulphate is very firm, but unchanged since last week (p. 930).

DR. WYNN WESTCOTT charges an unregistered chemist with a breach of the laws of the General Medical Council, because he sold a solution of bicarbonate of potash in chloroform water (pp. 961 and 980).

PRESTON AND BLACKBURN CHEMISTS are very eager for some protective legislation, and the Editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* encourages them to believe that the Pharmaceutical Society will get it for them (p. 978).

THE IRISH PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL appear rather pleased than otherwise with their defeat in respect of the mandamus granted against them on the application of Mr. Conyngham. The Chemists' and Druggists' Society have made overtures to them with a view of becoming associated with them (p. 968).

Students' Corner.

CONDUCTED BY RICHARD J. MOSS, F.I.C., F.C.S.

QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS.

THE subject of the next exercise in qualitative analysis will be a mixture of not more than three salts. The mixture is to be submitted to a thorough systematic examination, all its constituents are to be detected, and proof is to be given that the substances detected are the only constituents of the mixture.

Students' applications for portions of the mixture of salts (accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope, not a stamp merely) will be received up to Wednesday, December 21, and the samples will be forwarded immediately.

Students' reports will be received up to Saturday, December 31. Each report should contain a concise account of the work done, and should include a list of the constituents detected. In this list any substance regarded as an accidental impurity should be distinguished from the essential constituents of the salts composing the mixture.

REPORTS.

The powder distributed for analysis last month consisted of 2 parts of borax, 2 parts of sodium thiosulphate or hyposulphite, and 1 part of potassium ferrocyanide.

The calculated composition of this mixture is:—

K ...	...	...	...	...	7.39
Na ...	...	...	...	...	12.24
S ₂ O ₃ ...	...	...	...	...	18.06
B ₄ O ₇ ...	...	...	...	...	16.34
Fe(CN) ₆ ...	...	...	...	...	10.05
H ₂ O ...	...	...	...	...	35.92
					100.00

Samples of the mixture of salts were sent to 70 correspondents, and in reply 43 reports of analyses were received. Sodium was the only constituent detected by all our correspondents; 2, only, failed to detect potassium. In the case of the acid radicles the errors were more numerous: 12 failed to detect the borate, 7 the ferrocyanide, and 6 failed to identify the thiosulphate.

The above results show that the majority of our correspondents had no great difficulty in detecting the constituents of the salts in this mixture; the hardest part of the exercise consisted in carrying out certain tests which gave negative results. It is generally a very simple matter to test a substance soluble in water or in acids for chlorine by the use of a silver salt. In this exercise the powder contained sodium thiosulphate, a salt whose aqueous solution dissolves silver chloride readily, consequently the test for chlorine could not be applied in the ordinary way. There were other difficulties arising from the presence of one acid radicle yielding an insoluble silver salt, and another which split up into sulphur and sulphur dioxide when the solution was acidulated. The simplest way to overcome the difficulties was to decompose the thiosulphate by the action of nitric acid, to filter off the sulphur, and treat the filtrate with an excess of silver nitrate. On washing the precipitate and igniting it, the silver cyanides were decomposed, while any chloride present remained unaltered. On fusing the residue with an alkaline carbonate, the chlorine was obtained in combination with an alkali metal. Operating upon rather a large quantity of the powder, this troublesome process showed a slight trace of chlorine to be present.

The application of the ferrous-sulphate test for nitric acid involved similar difficulties, which, however, were more easily overcome. The direct application of ferrous sulphate to the solution of the powder was not admissible

on account of the ferrocyanide present, and the action of the sulphuric acid used in the test resulted in the separation of sulphur. The best plan was to decompose the thiosulphate by the action of dilute sulphuric acid, and to remove the ferrocyanide in combination with copper or iron. In this way a solution was obtained to which it was possible to add ferrous sulphate and strong sulphuric acid in the usual way.

We would remind our correspondents that two of the salts composing the powder are in very common use, and every pharmacist should be thoroughly acquainted with their reactions. The antiseptic properties of boric acid have led to its use on a very extensive scale and in a great variety of ways; it is important to be able to detect boric acid with certainty under very different conditions. Sodium thiosulphate is used in enormous quantities for photographic purposes; every chemist should know how to identify it.

PRIZES.

The First Prize for the best analysis has been awarded to F. H. H. FRANCIS, c/o Mr. Rossiter, chemist, 9 Grand Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

The Second Prize has been awarded to A. E. KING, c/o Messrs. Fuller & Co., Norwich.

MARKS AWARDED FOR ANALYSES.

F. H. H. Francis (first prize)	100	A. J. Bills ...	...	92
A. E. King (second prize)	99	Horatius ...	...	91
A. E. Beeston ...	98	Boltonian ...	...	91
Parmelia ...	96	Dick ...	...	85
Algol ...	96	R. Pickup ...	...	82
Urotropin ...	95	W. B. W. ...	...	80
E. H. H. ...	95	Aro ...	...	78
Omega ...	95	Excelsior ...	...	77
Hydargyrum ...	95	E. E. H. ...	...	76
J. A. Goode ...	95	F. H. Walls ...	...	75
F. G. Griffiths ...	94	Cisdore ...	...	74
E. W. Ewell ...	94	Chemicus ...	...	73
Kingswalden ...	94	Beginner ...	...	72
Aberthau ...	94	R. Walton ...	...	71
J. R. Stott ...	93	Ledoc ...	...	70
Dover ...	93	Euclid ...	...	65
Mercaptan ...	93	Jegow ...	...	62
Gelsemium ...	92	T. H. Moore ...	...	60
W. H. Hurn ...	92	Pyridene ...	...	50
C. C. D. D. ...	92	Borax ...	...	50
Lindum ...	92	S. R. B. ...	...	35
		Hayman ...	...	15

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Prizes.—The students to whom prizes are awarded are requested to write at once to the Publisher, naming the book they select, and stating how they wish it forwarded.

Any scientific book that is published at a price not greatly exceeding half a guinea may be taken as a first prize.

Any scientific book which is sold for about five shillings may be taken as a second prize.

Note.—All communications should include the names and addresses of the writers.

DICK.—The ammonia you detected did not exist in the powder as an ammonium compound; it was a product of the decomposition of potassium ferrocyanide by heat in the presence of water.

R. PICKUP.—The boric acid in the powder gave a very well marked reddish-brown colour with turmeric-paper. Owing to the alkalinity of the mixture you may not have used enough hydrochloric acid; it is not desirable to have a large excess present, but the liquid must be unmistakably acid. The turmeric-paper should be freshly prepared; it deteriorates rapidly on exposure to light and air.

ARO.—You gave no particulars of your turmeric-paper test for boric acid. See remarks above.

EXCELSIOR.—You say that the powder dissolved in water, forming a neutral solution; on the contrary, the solution was strongly alkaline. It was necessary to apply special test for the detection of boric acid.

E. E. H.—Iron was not present in the powder as a base; it existed as a constituent of an acid radicle. There is almost as much difference between the two forms as between nitrogen as

ammonia and nitrogen in the form of nitric acid. It is remarkable that you observed none of the peculiar reactions of the thio-sulphate. See remarks to "Cisdore."

F. H. WALLS.—There was no cyanide in the mixture; that which you detected was a product of the decomposition of ferro-cyanogen. The cyanides of the alkali metals are so easily decomposed that even the carbonic acid of the air acts upon them, so that these cyanides always smell of hydrocyanic acid. Ferro-cyanides are much more stable salts. Dilute acids acting upon them do not liberate hydrocyanic acid; the acid set free is a distinct compound—hydroferrocyanic acid.

CISDOR.—The gradual separation of sulphur and the evolution of sulphur dioxide, when the solution of the powder was treated with an acid, were very conspicuous results, and should not have escaped notice. The reaction is highly characteristic of a thiosulphate.

CHEMICUS.—When the powder was warmed with an excess of dilute nitric acid, and the separated sulphur filtered off, the solution did not give a yellow crystalline precipitate with ammonium molybdate. If you used too little nitric acid, you may have precipitated molybdenum ferrocyanide, but this compound is brown, amorphous, and soluble in nitric acid. Your magnesium precipitate consisted of magnesium borate; it was not crystalline like the phosphate, and it was only produced by adding magnesium in quantity. Very little magnesium, in the presence of ammonia, would have given a precipitate if a phosphate had been present. The formation of the borate precipitate is promoted by warming the solution, whereas the phosphate separates most quickly from a cold solution.

BEGINNER.—It was very difficult to follow your report; the experiment by which you proved the presence of a sulphate was not intelligible. You referred to a "prepared solution," but no mode of preparation was described.

R. WALTON.—Ferric chloride, when added to the aqueous solution of the powder, gave a copious precipitate of Prussian blue; a cyanide would not have given this reaction. See remarks to "E. E. H."

LEDOR.—You did not apply any test that would detect a borate. The yellow precipitate you thought due to arsenic consisted of sulphur.

EUCLID.—See remarks to "E. E. H."

JEGOW.—You found that by the action of ferric chloride, ferrous sulphate, potassium hydroxide, and hydrochloric acid on the powder you obtained Prussian blue, but you overlooked the much simpler observation that ferric chloride alone gave the same precipitate. You cannot rely upon precipitation for the detection of boric acid; none of its salts is sufficiently insoluble for the purpose.

T. H. MOORE.—The copious blue precipitate with ferric chloride pointed clearly to a ferrocyanide; it could not have been caused by a simple cyanide. Your test for nitric acid was clearly valueless owing to the production of ferrous ferrocyanide. You omitted to look for boric acid.

PYRIDINE.—We cannot suggest any explanation of your failure to detect potassium both by the flame-test and by precipitation with platinum chloride. You should be able to detect a much smaller proportion of potassium. You ought to find out by experiment what quantity you can detect in the presence of a sodium salt.

BORAX.—You did not explain how iron could have been present as a base along with a sulphide in an almost colourless powder soluble in water.

S. R. B.—The yellow flame-colour of sodium did not prevent the potassium colour from being observed, provided you examined the flame through a medium opaque to the sodium rays, such as a blue glass. You probably did not allow sufficient time for the platino-chloride precipitate to form. Like all crystalline precipitates, the crystals of potassio-platinic chloride take a certain amount of time to grow. You seem to have overlooked boric acid.

HAYMAN.—The colour you obtained with the borax bead was due to iron derived from the ferrocyanide. You should study the reactions of the acids more fully. The only way to study reactions is by experiment.

THE WINTER TOURNAMENT.—The results this month again show a close competition. The following is now the order in which the leading competitors stand:—

F. Giles (Parmelia) ...	196	F. G. Griffiths ...	193
A. E. Beeston ...	196	Omega ...	190
A. E. King ...	194	Urotropin ...	188
Algol ...	193	Dover ...	187
F. H. H. Francis (Coronium) ...	193	Aberthau ...	186
		Kingswalden ...	186

The contest promises to be an exciting one, and, of course, it does not follow that the names here given are will finish at the top. There are several other competitors who run the above very close, and stand a good chance of getting among our first ten before the tournament is finished.

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Acetylene Explosion.

On December 9 Mr. Alfred Burlingham, aged 32, son of a jeweller at King's Lynn, was making experiments in the manufacture of acetylene gas when an explosion occurred, and he was instantly killed. A lad who was with him at the time was rendered temporarily unconscious, and is now quite deaf.

Northampton Institute.

A *conversazione* of members and students took place in the Northampton Institute, Clerkenwell, on December 9, and was attended by over 3,000 persons. It is at this Institute that the Spectacle-makers' Company's optical classes are provided, and the examinations take place. Demonstrations were given in the optical laboratory of various photometers such as the S.M.C. students use. The pleasing effect of the aerial graphoscope was also shown. In the technical-chemistry laboratory, which has just been opened, was a good collection of ores. The x-ray exhibit, Tesla apparatus, the photo-chromoscope, and the telephones connected with the theatres were each attracting crowds. Dr. Walmsley (the Principal) delivered a lecturette on "Wireless Telegraphy," and Mr. C. V. Drysdale one on "Colour photography." There were also swimming and gymnastic displays, lantern-shows, and concerts in progress during the evening. Among the firms who were showing optical and photographic apparatus were Messrs. Botwright & Grey, Kodak (Limited), Raphael & Co., and Ross & Co.

Weights and Measures Adjustment.

A deputation representing the various tradesmen of Bradford (Mr. S. N. Pickard appearing for the Chemists' and Druggists' Association) waited upon the Markets and Fairs Committee of the Town Council last week for the purpose of endeavouring to obtain a concession in regard to the charge for testing weights and measures. It was urged that—as is the case in a number of other towns, especially in the North of England—traders should not be charged for testing weights and measures when these were found, upon being brought for adjustment, to be quite correct. The Secretary of the deputation, Mr. H. Horsman (the Bradford representative of Bovril, Limited), has since received a communication acceding to the request.

Disinfectants in Clerkenwell.

Mr. G. A. Putnam, who has so frequently called the attention of the Clerkenwell Vestry to the need for more efficient disinfection in the parish, and who recently drew from the Medical Officer (Mr. Glaister) the assertion that carbolic powder only acted as a deodoriser, is determined not to let the matter rest. If carbolic powder and carbolic acid are of little use (unless applied in very large quantities) something, he says, ought to be got to act alike as a deodoriser and disinfectant. So he has put a notice of motion on the agenda-paper: "That it be an instruction to the Public Health Committee to procure various samples of disinfectants advertised, to have the same analysed, and to report to the Vestry thereon." Mr. J. K. Colwell, the public analyst, has a "large order" before him if this resolution is adopted; and we suppose the Vestry would indemnify him against any proceedings which might follow the publication of his report on the merits of the various disinfectants.

Damaging Chemists' Windows.

Mr. Bartlett, chemist, of Battersea Park Road, recovered 3*l.* at Westminster County Court, on December 8, from Mr.

Weatherill Martin for damages caused by the defendant's horse. The animal ran away, and in its flight threw off three of its shoes, one of which crashed through the plaintiff's plate-glass window.

George West (50), general dealer, of New Street, Bishops-gate, was charged, at North London Police Court on Monday, with wilfully damaging a shop-window and contents belonging to Mr. Frank Frazer Riches, pharmaceutical chemist, of 448 Kingsland Road. The prisoner was said to have thrown a large iron weight at the windows, which broke the glass and also some bottles of drugs, and damaged other articles, the total of the damage being set down at 10*l*. The prisoner, when throwing the weight (a 4*lb*. one), remarked, "That will do for you"; but who or what he meant was not known by the prosecutor, as he did not know the man. It was now thought that the prisoner was mentally affected, and he was put back for a medical opinion on the subject. Dr. Jackman examined the prisoner, and the latter, on being again placed in the dock, was found to have torn the sleeves out of his coat and cut his trousers. He had a very vacant expression on his face, and Dr. Jackman certified that the man was unaccountable for his actions. Mr. Dickenson sent the prisoner to the workhouse as insane.

Studying the Wholesale.

The students of the Manchester College of Pharmacy, with their Principal, Mr. C. Turner, F.C.S., visited Liverpool last week to inspect Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co.'s drug-warehouses and pharmaceutical works. The party arrived at Messrs. Evans's offices in the afternoon, and a guide was at once provided to escort them through the rooms. They began with the patent-medicine department, went through the packing and export department, and then saw the joiners' shop, the tinmen's shop, and the basket-making department. They were next taken to the cellars, where enormous stocks of cod-liver oil, castor oil, arsenic, and many other drugs were stored. The students were much interested in examining, on other floors, *materia medica* "as imported," and then went to the manufacturing-department. Besides tinctures, extracts, &c., they were able to watch the preparation of thyroïdin, of oils of cloves, santal, and copaiba, and of podophyllin. The journey through the establishment occupied about three hours. After the inspection, tea was kindly provided by the firm. A short time was left for a stroll about the city until it was time for the return journey.

Fire.

At Guildford, on December 6, fire was discovered in a building at the rear of the establishment of Mr. Jacobs, chemist and druggist, High Street. By the efforts of the firemen the conflagration was confined to that out-building, however, and was completely extinguished after burning about an hour. It is supposed to have been caused by an assistant of Mr. Jacobs stepping upon a match, igniting it, and leaving it smouldering.

Chelsea Physic-garden.

The Corporate Property and Charities Committee of the London County Council have reported to the Council on the draft scheme prepared by the Charity Commissioners for the future regulation of the Chelsea Physic-garden, which was established in 1721 by Sir Hans Sloane for the purpose of botanical and medicinal study, and for supplying the Royal Society with specimens of fresh plants every year. The Society of Apothecaries desire to be relieved of their trust, and it is now proposed to provide a museum, lecture-theatre, a botanical laboratory, and a biological laboratory, partly in the existing buildings and partly in new buildings to be erected, which should be administered by the Trustees and a committee of management. The scheme as drafted suggests a committee of fifteen members, to be appointed as follows: Eight by the Trustees of the London Parochial Charities and one each by the Pharmaceutical Society, the Treasury, Society of Apothecaries, Technical Education Board, Royal Society, and the University of London. The Committee approve of the scheme generally, but recommend that the Council appoint one of the committee instead of the Technical Education Board.

Medicine-mistakes.

At Whitby, on December 9, Mrs. Dorothy Pickernell, who had been suffering from nervous depression and insomnia, took an overdose of chloral hydrate, and her death took place the following day.

At Scarborough, on December 10, a three-year-old boy named Taylor gave his baby sister a sweet which his mother afterwards discovered to be a morphia pill. A doctor was summoned at once, but the baby died next day.

At Macclesfield on December 9 an inquest was held on the body of Margaret Healey, who died from drinking a quantity of carbolic acid in mistake for vinegar, which she was using to cure her bronchitis. Death from misadventure was the verdict.

The doctor who attended Eva Sharpe, of Worth Village, near Keighley, sent her three bottles of medicine, one of them being a sleeping-draught. Her mother gave half a teaspoonful of this draught to her daughter's infant, thinking it was the child's medicine, and it fell asleep and died.

On December 2, Mrs. Barker, of Sheffield, who was troubled with a cough, and could not sleep well, went downstairs in the night with the intention of drinking a concoction of linseed and liquorice-juice which she had been taking. She drank carbolic acid in mistake, and died in the infirmary three days later.

An inquest held at Bury, on December 13, on the body of Joseph Brierley disclosed the fact that deceased was found lying in bed breathing heavily, and two doctors failed to restore consciousness. A bottle containing laudanum was afterwards found, and a verdict of death from an accidental dose of opium was returned.

Football.

The return match between the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy and the Westminster College of Pharmacy was played on Saturday last at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush. The game ended in a draw—one all.

Theft.

At the West Ham Police Court on December 9, Samuel Tarling (28) and William Chapman (20) pleaded guilty to being concerned in stealing six sacks of coal, the property of Messrs. A. Boake Roberts & Co. (Limited), manufacturing chemists. The prisoners received good characters, and were given the option of paying a fine of 3*l*. each and costs, or in default twenty-one days' imprisonment with hard labour.

Physicians and the New B.P.

The Royal College of Physicians has resolved that the new British Pharmacopœia should come into force in its examinations on May 1, 1899, and that the examination in *materia medica* and pharmacy applicable only to candidates under the old regulations, which has hitherto been conducted by papers and *visâ voce*, be conducted in future *visâ voce* only.

Salvage Sale.

The sale of goods damaged by the recent fire at the warehouse of Messrs. F. Schutze & Co., druggists' sundriesmen and surgical-instrument makers, 36 Aldersgate Street, E.C., took place in the Commercial Sale Rooms, Mincing Lane, E.C., on December 14. There was a fair attendance of the usual *habitués* at these sales, the drab monotony being variegated by the presence of two or three business-like and well-dressed ladies. The large quantity of perfume and fancy articles on sale was evidently the attraction for the fair buyers, but they sat out the weary seven hours during which the sale dragged on, and took almost as much interest in the selling of lots of "laboratory flasks and pill-tiles" as of powder-puffs, perfumes, or odorators. The stock was very large and varied, but the selling was painfully tedious, although in many cases very fair prices were obtained. One prominent lady-buyer, resplendent in a picture-hat, was visibly disgusted at the price obtained (6*l*. 5*s*.) for "142 fancy bottles of perfumes." This lot comprised cut-glass stoppered bottles of Grant et Cie's Violet Russe, Lily of the Valley, &c., in various sizes, and both this one and the next, "50 baskets and bottles ditto," the lady had set her heart on. She was cautious, however, and let them

go with evident disappointment, which was not appeased until she had bought "5½ gross dispensing-bottles" for 7s. 6d. The following are some of the prices obtained:—

2½ gross vials (1 to 4 dr.), ½ gross 2-oz. china t.-paste pots, 9½ dozen bts. various (8 to 20 oz.), 9-oz. Eau de Cologne bts., 1½ gross octagonal and ½ gross oval bottles, at 1s. 6d. per gross.

50 dozen 2-oz. pots vaseline and pomade, at 1s. 2d. per dozen.
7 bts. (W. qts.) liq. ammonia '880, 3 bottles rose-water, 2 pints camphorated oil, 1 bottle naphtha, 1 jar powder (presumably saline), and 3 jars embrocation, at 25s. the lot.

2,700 (about) loofahs, at 62s. 6d. the lot.

2 bales cotton wool (each about 1 cwt.), at 2l. 12s. 6d. the lot.

246 odorator reservoirs, at 3d. each.

1½ cwt. (about) glycerin, at 40s. per cwt.

10 tins honey, each 60 lbs. (5 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lbs.), at 19s. per cwt.

2 jars pure olive oil, each 40 gals., at 3s. 9d. per gal.

A supplementary catalogue was taken up during the sale consisting of 40 bags, each containing about 7½ cwt. of orange shellac, all of which sold at from 52s. 6d. to 55s. per cwt. Another interesting item was the selling of 6 cases, each containing 20 dozen surgical trusses, nearly all of which were bought by a precocious-looking young son of Israel at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d. per dozen.

Not Allowed to Prescribe.

At an inquest held at Shoreditch, on Dec. 14, concerning the death of Sarah Cripps (70), it was stated that deceased who was blind, had fallen, and, feeling ill, her landlady sent to a chemist, who prescribed some medicine which was given her, and next day she was found dead in bed.

John Hill, of 92 St. John's Road, Haggerston, who stated he was a chemist but not now on the register, said the mixture which he made up for deceased contained bicarbonate of potash, chloroform-water, and a little burnt sugar. The mixture was harmless.

The Coroner: By the regulations you ought to have had a qualified man in the shop.—Witness: Only for dispensing poisons, and we never sell them because there is no sale for such things in the neighbourhood. Continuing, witness said that in nearly all the large chemists' and druggists' stores scattered about London the same rule was observed.

Dr. T. L. Brown, who had made an autopsy, said death was due to serous apoplexy and shock, due to a fracture of the hip, probably caused by the fall.

The Coroner said that by the regulations even registered chemists were not allowed to prescribe, and yet an unregistered man had done so, and this was a breach of the laws of the General Medical Council.

The jurors returned a verdict of accidental death, adding a rider expressing strong disapproval of the action of the chemist in prescribing and dispensing medicine, he not being properly qualified. They further requested the Coroner to report the matter to the Pharmaceutical Society, the Apothecaries' Hall, and the General Medical Council.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

January Examinations.

The last days for lodging applications will be:—For the Preliminary examination, Tuesday, December 20; Pharmaceutical Assistants' and Registered Druggists' examinations, Tuesday, December 27; Pharmaceutical Licence examination, Wednesday, December 28.

Not the Company.

Mr. Samuel Hogg, pharmaceutical chemist, Belfast, says the statement in our last issue that Messrs. James Hogg, Sons & Co. (Limited) had opened a new pharmacy at 110 Shankhill Road, Belfast, was incorrect, and he admonishes us to be more careful in the future. The information was supplied to us by Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders, of Liverpool, who supplied the fittings for the new shop. We have asked them for an explanation, and they now state that the shop belongs to Mr. S. Hogg, not to the company.

Ireland's Hidden Wealth.

With a view of developing the mineral wealth of West Cork, and working a number of ochre, barytes, manganese, and other mines, which are stated to be plentiful in the district, a lady from Skibbereen has offered, through the *Irish Times*, a furnished cottage free of rent for three months, and the use of a horse and car, also free, to any geologist or mining-engineer willing to open the mines as a speculation.

Fire.

In the early morning of December 9 fire broke out on the premises of Messrs. Anderson & McCrea, druggists and grocers, Hill Street, Newry, one of the branches of the Ulster Chemists (Limited). The fire-brigade were promptly on the spot, but notwithstanding their exertions the fire was not subdued until the extensive range of stores had been completely gutted. Fifteen barrels of petroleum oil which were located in the passage between the stores and the adjoining premises were destroyed.

Aërated Butter.

The directors of the Irish Aërated-butter Company, on December 10, gave in Dublin a demonstration of a process by which they claim will transform low-class and indifferent butter into a chemically pure substance. The demonstration took place at the company's newly-erected works at Blanchardstown, and was conducted by Dr. Lowman, F.R.S., and Mr. J. N. Haires, the inventor of the process. For the purpose of proving the purifying capacity of the Haires process, some very objectionable samples of the worst kind of Russian butter were employed, but it was stated that for commercial purposes the company only dealt with low grades of genuine butter. The butter is first placed in large cisterns and heated. When completely melted it is submitted to a spray of hot water, which washes the melted fat, which sinks to the bottom of the vessel. The butter-oil is then run into a suitably-designed vessel, and emulsified with pure selected butter-milk. The emulsion is afterwards run into the "aërotors," where a further washing by water and milk is supplemented by that of pure air drawn through the liquid in large volumes. A complete churning-action takes place, in which the air-currents take the place of the ordinary beaters, and under their influence the granular form is reassumed by the butter particles exactly as they were originally assumed in the churn. Butter thus treated, it is stated, is found to be absolutely pure from a chemical point of view, to possess all the qualities of flavour and appearance which make it commercially desirable, and to contain only 12 per cent. of water.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Poisoned by Carbonic Acid.

A man named Max Streicker, who was employed in the premises of the Pouril Company (Limited), cider-manufacturers, Elliot Street, Glasgow, had entered a bottle-necked kettle used for forcing gas into the cider in order that he might clean it. He entered at the top and descended to the bottom, where he was overcome by a large quantity of carbonic-acid gas. The gas was at once pumped out and he was extricated. Dr. Wright, who was sent for, at once resorted to artificial respiration, and did everything possible to bring him round, but all was of no avail. Death was due to carbonic-acid poisoning.

Practical Demonstrations.

On Monday last the Students of the Glasgow School of School of Pharmacy, under the guidance of John Lothian, Principal, visited the City Glass-works of Messrs. Couper & Co. Flint glass is exclusively used in these works, the ingredients being silver-sand (from Fontainebleau), red-lead, sodium carbonate, and a small proportion of potassium nitrate. These are fused up with "cullet" in fireclay "pots." The furnaces, in which twelve "pots" are heated, are fired from underneath, and go on continuously for about ten years. The ruby glass is coloured with purple of Cassius. Great care has to be taken to keep the pots from the direct action

of the flame, and some interesting effects of the oxidation and reduction of coloured glass were shown by the manager, and admirable glass-blowing demonstrations were given. On Tuesday, the St. Rollox Chemical-works of the United Alkali Company were visited. The manufacture of vitriol, muriatic acid, bleaching-powder, and soda crystals was explained by one of the chemical staff, and then the tour of the works was made. The vitriol-plant was first visited. This comprises about thirty condensing-chambers and eight each Gay Lussac and Glover towers. After precipitating the arsenic from the crude acid it is concentrated in platinum vessels, the total value of which is about 40,000*l*. The manufacture of hydrochloric acid was next witnessed, by the action of vitriol on rock-salt and the gas condensed in towers. The hydrochloric acid is treated with pyrolusite in the chlorine-stills, and the chlorine passed into slaked lime to form bleaching-powder. The manganese dioxide is regenerated from the still-liquor by the Dunlop process. Chalk is ground into a thin cream with water and mixed in large cylinders by means of mechanical stirrers. The mixture is subjected to a steam-pressure of 40 lbs. The manganoous carbonate resulting from the double decomposition is placed on trays and heated to a temperature between 600° and 700° F., when the CO₂ is driven off, and it is oxidised into manganese dioxide. This is in the form of a very fine powder, and is of more than double the value of the original pyrolusite.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

ILLEGAL PHARMACY.—A. M. Fages has been prosecuted at Marseilles on the charge of illegal practice of pharmacy, at the instance of the local Society of Pharmacy. He carried on a trade in gauze and antiseptic cotton-wool, and endeavoured to cover himself by using the name of M. Maria, pharmacist of Marseilles, who was accused of conniving with him. There is nothing special in the case except as showing how comparatively well pharmacy is protected by law in France. Fages was found guilty of illegally trading in medicinal substances, and Maria with aiding and abetting him.

VACCINE FOR SERPENTS' BITES.—Dr. Phisalix has recently been engaged in making new researches with regard to vaccine against serpents' bites, and he announces that sugar of mushrooms is efficient in such cases, the common wild mushroom giving the best results. Inoculated under the skin of serpents and in rabbits by injections in the veins, it produces poisonous effects, more or less pronounced according to the dose. When the sugar is warmed the danger is attenuated without lessening the vaccinating properties. A paper on the subject was read at the Academy of Sciences here last Monday.

OXYGENATED WATER AS AN ANTISEPTIC.—During the past twelve months Dr. Lucas Championnière has made numerous experiments with oxygenated water as an antiseptic, and has formed the opinion that in this respect it has not hitherto been sufficiently appreciated. He considers it to be the only antiseptic by which putrefaction and suppuration can be properly treated. The subject was discussed at last week's meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine. Dr. Championnière stated that in certain cases where the most powerful antiseptics had failed, washing with oxygenated water had produced most beneficial effects, and he had been able to cleanse wounds that were seriously infected; several of his patients undoubtedly owed their lives to this treatment. Experiments in simple cases had proved equally satisfactory. He considers that oxygenated water is quite harmless, and, while being less irritating than other antiseptics, it is very superior even to sublimate.

A QUESTION OF PHOTOS.—M. Mariani, the manufacturer of the well-known medicated wine that bears his name, is at present in litigation with M. Reutlinger, a Paris photographer, concerning the question of the right to reproduce photographs. The dispute arose in this way:—M. Mariani addressed samples of his wine to a number of Paris celebrities, and from many of them obtained a complimentary letter in reply, most of which he secured permission to publish, as

well as the photographs of the writers. The letters and photographs were in due course issued in the form of an album. The prosecuting photographer claims that the photographs taken by him cannot be reproduced without his permission. The legal question will be duly contested, but M. Mariani found a way of improving the occasion. He has succeeded in getting written opinions on the point in dispute from most of the leading literary men, journalists, artists, and others whose testimonials of his wine he has already published with photographs. Most of the letters are cleverly written and speak volumes for the inspiring qualities of the medicated wine.

THE FEDERATION OF THE SOUTH-EAST, which comprises the Pharmaceutical Syndicates and Societies of the South-East of France, is one of our most active militant bodies. It was formed in 1892, and is supported by the Schools of Pharmacy of Montpellier, Marseilles, and Alger. The Federation is the heart and soul of the anti-speciality party. It not only refused to associate with the recent unsuccessful attempt to combine with patent-medicine manufacturers as a means of preventing cutting, but was antagonistic to the idea. The failure of the project must in a great degree be attributed to this opposition. Just now the Federation is aiming to produce its own patent medicines on the co-operative system. For this purpose a company has been organised, under the name of the "Scientific Society of the South-East," and the first general meeting was held recently. At present the capital is only about 900*l*. (22 000*fr.*), but, being on a strictly cash basis, this is considered sufficient. The President of the Society is M. Barthélemy, pharmacien



M. COLLARD, Marseilles.

at Bollène, Vaucluse; M. Cabanais, of Nîmes, Gard, is Secretary; and M. Collard, of Marseilles, is to make the preparations. Before commencing the manufacture of any product to replace a popular patent medicine, the Society's committee has to address all the shareholders with a view to inquiring if they are of the opinion that there will be a sale for the preparation named. If half of the shareholders send a negative reply, the idea is abandoned. The formulæ are adopted by the committee, who as far as possible undertake to consult the shareholders and a technical committee composed of those professors of the Schools of Pharmacy of Montpellier and Marseilles who are willing to act. Twenty-five per cent. discount off the retail price is to be allowed, but there is a special tariff for shareholders, and every pharmacist buying from the "Scientific Society" has to sign an agreement by which he undertakes not to sell below the fixed prices. Cutting is to be prevented by means of numbers placed on each product, and by the committee having the power to make test-purchases how and when they like. Any pharmacist selling below the marked prices has his discount reduced to 5 per cent. or is not supplied. The report read at the recent general meeting shows that the new Society has so far made satisfactory progress.

Australasian News.

THE NEW B.P.—At the October meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland a letter was read from the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association stating their agreement with the suggestion that the B.P. 1898 should be adopted generally throughout Queensland on January 1, 1899. The Society resolved to write to the Home Secretary urging on him the official recognition of the Pharmacopoeia, and to the Medical Association informing them that the Government had been communicated with and the date fixed approved by the Society. This appeal to the Government is the outcome of a general opinion among chemists that if official proclamation of the new B.P. standard be not made at once it would probably be years before prescribers would make themselves familiar with the new order of things, and meanwhile there would be much uncertainty as to what was intended, and serious misunderstandings might arise.—A discussion on the same question ensued at a meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Tasmania on October 4, and it was ultimately resolved "that the Secretary write to the Court of Medical Examiners suggesting that January 1, 1899, be the official date for the adoption of the new B.P."

NEW ZEALAND PHARMACY BILL.—The officers and committee of the Otago Pharmaceutical Association have been photographed in group, and a framed enlargement of the photograph hung in the Association's rooms. An excellent reproduction of this photograph appears in the issue of our Australasian edition for November 1. A special meeting of chemists was held in the rooms of this Association on September 16 to consider the Pharmacy Bill now in the hands of the Government. Mr. T. W. Kempthorne (President of the Otago Pharmaceutical Association) was in the chair, and the trade generally in the colony was well represented. The Bill was thoroughly discussed, several alterations being approved of and some additions proposed. Amongst the additions was one suggesting that an annual subscription of 10s. for every chemist on the roll should be paid to provide the Pharmacy Board with a larger revenue, so that members from all centres be compelled to attend the Board meetings at least three times a year, having their expenses paid and a travelling allowance of 10s. per day. The proposed alterations were sent to the Dunedin members of Parliament, but the senior member for Dunedin has written to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Association intimating that there is no probability of the Bill being introduced this Session.

VICTORIAN POISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILLS—A meeting of chemists was held at Prahran, Victoria, on October 12, to discuss with Mr. F. C. Gray (their representative in the Legislative Assembly) the amendments to the Poisons Bill (details of which were given in our issue of October 15 p. 623) suggested by the Pharmacy Board. After going carefully into the whole question it was decided to suggest amendments to the Government Bill further amending the Poisons Act 1890, which course would be less likely to provoke opposition from the Government. Mr. Deakin, another of their representatives in the Legislature, has consented to move the required amendments. The proposals of the Pharmacy Board have been noted by the Medical Defence Association, who have informed the Government that their Bill is considered by the association a fair compromise. The proposal to exempt dispensing-chemists in their compounding, and not medical men, attracted, however, unfavourable comment. On October 26 a meeting of members of the Victorian branch of the British Medical Association was held, to consider the suggested amendment of the Poisons Bill. The medical men considered it an attempt on the part of the chemists to secure covert approval of what was regarded as illegal prescribing, and a committee was appointed to watch the interests of the medical profession. The suggested amendments of the Pharmacy Board include an alteration of that section of the Bill which is looked at askance by the doctors, and it is proposed to alter that section to satisfy their medical critics. The Board, moreover, propose to drop the clauses relating to patent medicines, poisoned seeds, vermin-killers and poisoned

fly-papers. The power of an apprentice to sell is taken away. The entry of the sale is to be in a book kept by the vendor for the purpose, and the entry is to be signed by the person making the sale, and also by the purchaser. The entry is to be made "by the person who sells the same or by any employé or assistant who is a registered pharmaceutical chemist."

South African News.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE BRENNAN CASE has now been referred to the Circuit Court, which will be held next month. At the last hearing of the case Dr. Orden, district surgeon of Rustenburg, stated he held a *post-mortem* examination on the body of the late Mrs. Robinson. The papers were referred to the State Attorney.

THE PHARMACY BILL.—The Cape Government is too busy with the Redistribution Bill to give attention to the proposed amendments to the Pharmacy Bill, which it was thought would have been piloted through this Session at an early date. Some of the Cape chemists who applauded the idea of making all patents carry their formulae now begin to recognise the far-reaching element of the clause. The fact that such a departure would fall on their own articles with equal force never fully occurred to them. The idea that nothing further will be heard of the Bill is gaining ground in the colony. [Our correspondent (who wrote on November 23) has since cabled the abandonment of the Bill (see last issue of C. & D.).] We have reason to believe that amendments will be made to the Medical and Pharmacy Act, 1891, and that such amendments will have more or less effect on patents, but to what extent we are unable to say at present. In all probability, a law dealing with poisons similar to the one in force in the Mother Country will go through. As far as the actual formulae appearing on the containers, we think we are justified in saying it is not intended to go so far.]

STAMPED PROPRIETARIES.—While the American druggist has been grumbling at the medicine-stamp tax his African brother druggist pays up without a murmur. Many Cape chemists do not even know why the prices of American patents are advancing. The articles containing alcohol are, of course, manufactured in bond, but several lines—for instance, Cuticura soap, Carter's pills, and the like—cannot be manufactured or exported from America in bond, consequently they carry the war-stamp equivalent to their value. Most of the British proprietors have now stopped using revenue-stamps on medicines intended for export. The proprietor of Beecham's pills alone, among the large exporters to the Cape, has not adopted this course, and the letter from a New Zealand subscriber appearing in the C. & D. October 29, pointing out that Beecham's pills no longer bear the British revenue-stamp in that country, has been the subject of comment in South African drug-circles. The question naturally goes round, "If Mr. Beecham can ship his goods to New Zealand, where laws governing the sales of patents exist similar to our own, we ought to be able to purchase under the same conditions." There is certainly a great deal in the argument. A duty of 20 per cent. is levied on all proprietary lines entering the South African Customs Union, and it is hardly fair to expect the Cape trade to pay both the home and local tax when such a procedure is easily avoided.

The Cape Pharmacy Bill.

The following is a copy of a letter which we have addressed to Sir Alfred Milner, K.C.M.G., her Majesty's High Commissioner in Cape Colony, who is in London at present in consultation with the Government regarding South African affairs:—

SIR,—In reply to your letter of December 10 we beg to state that the Bill to amend the Cape Medical and Pharmacy Act, 1891, came before the House of Assembly in June last (a report enclosed). Immediately the provisions of the Bill in regard to the labelling of patent medicines became known on this side a

meeting of wholesale dealers in and manufacturers of patent medicines was held in London, and a committee was appointed to oppose the measure. Subsequently the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce met and decided to use all efforts in their power to prevent the provisions in regard to labelling becoming law [report enclosed].

Our Cape correspondent informed us by cable last week [cutting enclosed] that the Bill has been abandoned for the present Session. We have since learned that it is intended to proceed with the measure when an opportunity arises, and therefore it is desirable that all these protests to which we refer you should have full consideration.

You are aware from your experience as Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue that in Great Britain the composition of medicines subject to medicine-stamp duty is not declared, but the Pharmacy Act requires that any medicine whatsoever (including secret medicines) containing a scheduled poison shall bear on the label the word "Poison." So far it has not been determined that the poisonous ingredient of a secret medicine should be stated on the label.

You will observe that the Cape Bill originally proposed to have the actual formula or prescription for the medicine printed on the label. This provision has never before been attempted in British legislation either at home or in the colonies.

There exist in France and other continental countries provisions for ensuring that the composition of secret medicines shall be declared to a central authority before they are permitted to be sold, but nowhere is it compulsory to give the formula of a preparation upon the label. It is well known that in France the regulation requiring declaration of the composition of a secret medicine is systematically violated by makers submitting a sample of the medicine along with the formula, thereupon receiving permission to sell, and then straightway putting on the market an article somewhat different in composition. In the United States attempts similar to that now proposed at the Cape have been made, but without success, difficulties of carrying out a law of that nature being so enormous.

We would point out that no tangible reason for requiring the composition of secret medicines to be revealed has been adduced, and owing to the lack of limitations to the incidence of the proposal it is probable that it would give rise to very great executive difficulties, while it would have a much wider application than the promoters anticipate. Assuming, however, that such a proposal were to become law in Cape Colony, it is obvious that it would prevent the manufacturers of the more popular English medicines from exporting their goods to the Cape, as they do not wish to reveal the composition of the articles; thus the Cape public would be unable to obtain these articles, while every manufacturer of proprietary medicines in the Cape would have to tell his competitors how he makes his goods.

Our latest information indicates that the drug-trade at the Cape is realising the serious nature of the proposal, and I trust that these facts will be useful to you should occasion arise.

Yours faithfully,
THE EDITOR.

Sir Alfred Milner, K.C.M.G.,
47 Duke Street, S.W.

His Excellency the High Commissioner has informed us that the matter will have his most earnest consideration, and it would be well if the proprietary-medicine trade would, before the Bill comes forward again, also address his Excellency.

Colonial and Foreign News.

THEFT.—For stealing eight tins of quinine, valued at 98r., an employé of the Civil Medical Stores at Colombo has been sentenced to undergo six months' rigorous imprisonment.

A NEW BEHRING PATENT.—Dr. Emil Behring and Dr. W. G. Ruppel, of Marburg have applied for a German patent to cover the preparation of an immunising substance from tubercle bacilli, also to cover a method of cultivating these bacilli.

CHEAP QUININE.—The Punjab Government has decided to give the system of the sale of pice packets of quinine through the agency of the Post Office a further trial. The last experiment was tried in the Delhi division, but was not a success, the exact causes of failure not being clear.

WOMAN'S ADVANCE.—Dr. Katharina van Tusschenbroek has been elected Professor of Gynecology in the University of Utrecht, Holland.—Signorina Esther Bonomi has received the first degree of doctor of medicine granted by the University of Genoa to a woman in Italy in modern times.

GERMAN PATENT-LAW.—An agitation in favour of an alteration of the German patent-law has been started. The chief objection to existing conditions is the difficulty in

getting a patent. From 1887-97 no fewer than 122,734 applications were refused, owing to the inability of the applicants to meet the requirements of the so-called "Erfindungsgedanken" (inventive idea).

LINSEED-OIL TRUST.—The New American Linseed Company has just been formed, with a capital stock of \$16,750,000 of preferred and \$16,750,000 of common stock. It is an amalgamation of seven of the largest linseed-oil interests in the United States, and includes the old National Linseed-oil Company, of Chicago, which was in difficulties. The majority of the output will be controlled by the new corporation, but it is understood that it will work in harmony with the outsiders.

A PASTEUR INSTITUTE AT HYDERABAD.—It is announced that the Nizam's Government has sanctioned the immediate construction of a complete and thoroughly equipped Pasteur Institute at Hyderabad. It will adjoin the Residency Hospital, and will be available for all classes under the British and Nizam's Government. The fullest possible bacteriological, chemical, and pathological investigations will be undertaken in regard to plague and malaria, and one of the adjuncts will be a photographic laboratory institute.

THE N.A.R.D.—The National Association of Retail Druggists, recently formed at St. Louis, is a delegate body, its membership being confined exclusively to regularly-organised associations of retail druggists. Each State and local association is entitled to one delegate for each 100 or fraction of 100 active members, and such delegates must be actively engaged in the retail drug-business. On this basis it is estimated that the St. Louis meeting was representative of 15,000 druggists of the United States. Twenty-five cents per head of the affiliated associations is the proposed financial basis.

NEW YORK CHEMICAL CLUB.—A movement to organise a chemical club in New York city was started by an informal smoker held on September 28. At that meeting a committee was appointed to canvass local chemists on the subject, and the committee have been so successful that twenty-eight guarantors have been secured, each pledging himself to the extent of \$100 for any deficiency which may occur during the first year. Amongst the members of the committee are Professor C. F. Chandler, Professor C. A. Doremus, Dr. E. R. Squibb, and Dr. W. McMurtrie (President of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society).

PARCEL POST TO RUSSIA.—On January 1, 1899, the regulations relative to the sending of parcels to and from Russia come into force. They are as follows:—(1) The declaration of value is optional. The maximum weight will be that allowed in the countries of the Postal Union. The parcels may be sent to and from European Russia, including Caucasia and Trans-Caucasia. (2) The postage must be prepaid. (3) Articles of value (gold, &c.) destined for countries in which parcels with declaration of value are admissible, must have their value declared. (4) Compensation will be given for parcels lost through no fault of the sender.

PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM.—Hitherto we have only seen general accounts of this notable commercial museum which is having such a marked influence upon American foreign trade; but now the pharmaceutical side of it has been described by Professor Henry Kraemers, of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. The museum was founded in 1895, in the old offices of the Philadelphia Railroad Company. Many specimens are from the Chicago exhibition. From Professor Kraemer's description we gather that the exhibits interesting to the drug-trade are natural products such as are shown in the New Museum and the Imperial Institute. There are 600 specimens of gums, resins, and the like, classified primarily according to the character and chemical conditions and relationships of the various kinds, and secondarily on a commercial basis. Practically the whole world is laid under contribution for samples. United States Consuls, the Museum's own agents abroad, and friendly correspondents are constantly sending samples representative of the products of all quarters of the globe. Much of the material comes direct from the producers, with valuable data respecting vernacular names and trade designations, methods of gathering, treating, packing, and shipping, quantity produced, prices, and other information showing the exact status of the material in commerce.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

BENEVOLENT FUND.—ELECTION OF ANNUITANTS.

A MEETING of the subscribers to the Benevolent Fund took place on December 13 for the purpose of electing four annuitants of the fund. The proceedings were of a formal character. The scrutineers reported that the following was the result of their count of the voting:—Biggs, W., 3,728; Bosley, E. J., 2,974; Bowman, J., 3,841; Field, W. C., 3,528; Stangroom, F., 2,314; Young, J. J., 5,495. It was then resolved that Mr. Biggs, Mrs. Bowman, Mr. Field, and Mr. Young be annuitants of the Society, and after a vote of thanks to the scrutineers, the meeting closed.

EVENING MEETING.

An evening meeting of the Society was held on December 13, the President in the chair. A paper by Mr. W. MURTON HOLMES was read on "Deep-sea Deposits," illustrated by lantern-slides. The lecturer dealt with the circumstances which led to the sending out of the *Challenger* expedition, the slides illustrating some of the various microscopic objects then first brought to light.

In moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer for his paper, the PRESIDENT said Mr. Holmes was an enthusiastic microscopist, pursuing his hobby in the scant leisure which his business as a pharmacist allowed him. It was an example, the President thought, which students might follow with advantage.

PAYING THE FEES.

Wednesday was muddy without, and the *C. & D.* man being in Bloomsbury Square, turned into No. 16 to wipe his boots on the spacious door-mats. It was, he found, the last day for paying the fees for the Minor examination, which is to begin on December 27, and the office was crowded with students who had put off entering till the last day. There was quite a rush—on the part of the candidates, for Bloomsbury never hurries, and were students to come in their thousands the "office" would retain its philosophic calm. There were the old hands who had been there before, booking seats, and the new hands nervously fingering—for the last time—the crisp notes or parental cheques. "Been in before?" seemed to be the first question the clerk asked, and a frank affirmative was given in the majority of cases. Birth-certificates cause a little diversion. One candidate had dropped one of his names in the twenty-one-year interval, and the clerk used his persuasive powers into inveigling him to take it up again, pointing out how awkward it would be to establish his identity if he had money left him. The candidate seemed to think this purely hypothetical and resolved to chance it, and, after a consultation behind the screen, they "took his word for it" that he was the man he said he was. "Spell it, please" was another stock remark, and, after watching the scene for some time, the *C. & D.* man turned away, with a sigh, as he thought of the many miserable Christmases which the candidates would spend with the Damoclean sword of the Minor examination hung over them. May they all pass!

Business Changes.

Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section free of charge, if properly authenticated.

MR. HENRY SQUIRE, of Deptford, has opened a new branch-pharmacy at 217 East India Dock Road, E.

BOOTS (LIMITED) have acquired premises in St. John Street, Bury St. Edmunds, and will open a branch there shortly.

A NEW pharmacy has been opened by Mr. Smith at Beaver Road, Ashford (Kent).

MESSRS. WALTERS & WALTERS, stationers' sundries-men, have removed from Bagley Lane, Fulham, S.W., to 38 Eagle Street, Holborn, W.C.

MR. F. W. NORTHERN, 390 Strand, W.C., has purchased the business previously carried on by Messrs. Henson & Co., at 47 Anerley Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

MR. HENRY TUCKER, M.P.S., L.D.S.A., has acquired the business lately carried on by the executors of the late Mr. James Wheelcon at 241 Stockport Road, Manchester.

MESSRS. THOMPSON & CAPPER, homœopathic chemists Liverpool and Manchester, have purchased the chemist's business lately carried on at 42 John William Street, Huddersfield, by Mr. Waite.

MR. J. E. BRADSHAW, chemist and druggist, will open in a few days a new pharmacy in Orchard Road, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea. The fittings are being supplied by Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders, of Liverpool.

MR. R. ARMSTRONG BELL, who has been assistant and traveller for seven years to Mr. J. H. Dickinson, chemist, Huddersfield, has taken over the wholesale drug and distillery business so long carried on by that gentleman at 16 Brooks Yard, Market Street, Huddersfield.

PALMER & Co. (LIMITED), night-light manufacturers, have removed their registered offices from Stratford to 43 Holborn Viaduct, E.C., where also they are fitting up a showroom, and will carry stock of goods. The shipping and export offices remain at 88 Bishopsgate, E.C.

Personalities.

PROFESSOR JOHN STRACHAN, chemist, Jedburgh, has been installed R.W.M. of Lodge St. John, No. 164, Jedburgh.

WE find that Dr. Leonard Dobbin, of Edinburgh, is a graduate of Würzburg. We credited him to Leipzig last week.

PROFESSOR RÖNTGEN has been offered a professorship in the Leipzig University, but has not yet decided whether he will accept it or not.

MR. J. F. HARRINGTON, the newly-elected councillor of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, was in business and Master of a Masonic Lodge at Southend, not Southsea, as stated last week (page 933).

MR. H. H. EDMUNDS, chemist and stationer, Merc, Wilts, has invented and registered a new parlour game which he has named "Numero," and of which Messrs. Hovenden & Sons, City Road, E.C., are London agents.

DR. DANIEL MORRIS, C.M.G., Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, has already begun his duties. On November 8 he visited Trinidad, and delivered an address on the aims and objects of his mission before the Agricultural Society.

MR. LIONEL LAURANCE announces in our advertisement-columns that he is about to start a postal course of instruction in visual optics. He has started the classes in response to the numerous applications from students in all parts of the country who find it inconvenient to attend his classes personally.

AT the annual competition and exhibition of work in connection with the Falkirk Amateur Photographic Association Mr. Robert Sinclair, chemist, Falkirk, offered for competition a silver cup for the best picture in the exhibition. Mr. Sinclair obtained an award for some of his own work in figure study, and had provided an exhibit of photographic apparatus and materials.

"THE CUPIDITY OF BEHRING" forms the text for a short but bitter article in the last number of one of the Paris journals of pharmacy. It is based on Behring's U.S. patent for antidiphtheritic serum. Dr. Roux, of Paris, who improved on the system, is commended for taking no part in this "commercialism of medicine."

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

COUNCIL MEETING.

THE Council met on December 7. Present: Mr. R. J. Downes (President) in the chair, Mr. Beggs (Vice-President), and Messrs. Baxter (Coleraine), Connor (Newry), Porter, Ryan, Wells, and Dr. Walsh.

MR. CONYNGHAM'S MANDAMUS.

The PRESIDENT gave an address dealing with a few events of current interest. In reference to the case of the Queen (Conyngham) v. the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, he said:—Though we must acknowledge this as a defeat on the main question, it has incidentally been a great gain to the Society, in that the validity of our regulations has been acknowledged by a consensus of judicial opinion, which—for the present, at all events—we may take as amounting to a judgment that, although originally *ultra vires*, they have been recognised and “set up” by the Amendment Act of 1890. The judgment in the Cleeland case is re-affirmed, and it is only because Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson (Limited) “fulfil the conditions of a firm of legally qualified pharmaceutical chemists” that the declaration is to be received. It must be admitted that this is not inconsistent with the position of the Council with regard to limited companies generally—“that no company may be registered to do acts which require a statutory qualification for the individual unless all the members of the company are qualified.” We have not placed ourselves in opposition to the principle that companies may be formed by qualified persons for the purpose of carrying on a legitimate business for which the individual members are qualified, but we felt a difficulty in recognising one form of company and not another, as we understood that in law there is no difference. All companies are registered by persons for the purpose of losing their individuality, and placing their responsibilities on the company instead of themselves, and of doing by the company what they could not do as individuals—*e.g.*, raise money in shares or debentures—and that, if we recognised apprenticeship to one company, we would be bound by our decision to accept it in the case of any other. We are relieved of this difficulty by the judgment of the Court, so that, on the whole, the judgment establishes and justifies the position we have assumed and desired to see established. I hope that, in refusing to give in on the point without the authority of the Court, we have done the best for our licentiates, and, although we cannot say it was friendly litigation, I trust we have made no bad blood, as there really was no personal animus in the contention, and now that it is settled I hope the old feelings of goodwill will resume their sway.

But an analysis of the “dictums” of the Judges would be an interesting study for young barristers. Even Lord Justice Holmes, when sitting in the Queen's Bench, decided in the Cleeland case that the Court was bound by the House of Lords in the Forwood case as to the validity of our regulations, and also that a company could in no case be a firm, and on these two grounds very unwillingly, I believe, gave judgment in our favour, on which two points the other Judges agreed with him. We can only express regret that learned judges have not a more definite rule of law; but the most startling revolution was the upsetting of the authority—I might almost say, the contempt for the authority—of the Privy Council, in whose legal knowledge and approval we have hitherto confided.

I have to report that your Law Committee met at the courts on the morning of the judgment, and also subsequently in consultation with counsel, when the question of appeal was fully considered, and it was unanimously decided to recommend that we should abide by the *mandamus*.

OVERTURES FROM THE DRUGGISTS.

I have another matter to communicate—one that, coming as it did coincidentally with the judgment, was like the comfort derived from a “strengthening-plaster.” On the evening preceding the day of the judgment I received a visit from Mr. Rankin, Hon. Secretary of the Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland, North of Ireland Branch, the object of which was to ascertain how we were disposed to the

druggists as a body, and how we would receive their return. It appears that they had been discussing the question of whether they would recommend their members to join the Society as associates. The interview was informal, but as he desired to know the mind of the Council, that he could represent it to the members of the Society in Belfast, I asked him to come to the courts in the morning, when he would have an opportunity of meeting the members of the Law Committee. He did so, and there was an informal interchange of views. For my part I desired to assure him we were quite willing to have seven representatives on the Council, provided they were reasonable persons desirous of working in harmony with the Council. He disavowed any intention of working in a hostile spirit, and was quite prepared to support us in all prosecutions for infringement of the law, whether against the outside trader who sold poisons or the druggist who was compounding prescriptions—in fact, that they were with us in carrying out the law against every infringement, and that as an Association they have never yet supported or paid a penny of their funds in defending a member who was prosecuted for dispensing illegally—and that, should they decide to recommend the druggist body to subscribe, it was not their intention or desire to make a wholesale sweeping out of the present members of Council. I assured him if they advanced as he indicated I saw no reason why we should not receive their advances in a friendly spirit, that at present there was a strong feeling on the Council to co-opt a druggist to the present vacancy, but we did not know who would be willing to work with us, and we would not co-opt one who we were not assured would do so. I believe the other members spoke in similar terms. It will certainly be to me a satisfaction if the year 1898 may be known as the year of reconciliation.

THE REDUCTION OF PENALTIES.

I regret to inform you that we have received a communication from the Castle intimating that the Viceregal clemency has been exercised in favour of the memorialist Mr. James Hogg, reducing the penalty of 5*l.* imposed by the Act to 2*l.* The relief to Mr. Hogg is a bagatelle, but the effect of the remission to the Society is an accentuation of the official distaste to support this Society in the discharge of the functions imposed on it by the Legislature, and is an encouragement to offenders to memorialise for no better object than to see us snubbed by the Castle. I consider it becomes an urgent question for you to consider whether you will continue to direct prosecutions or refer them to the Crown Prosecutor for the district, and ask him to conduct them.

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPEIA.

You will be pleased to learn that the General Medical Council has decided to give this Society equal place with the Society for Great Britain in the review and preparation of the Pharmacopoeia. For this we are indebted to our Councillor (Professor Titchborne), who, sitting as the representative of the Apothecaries' Hall, never fails of an opportunity of advancing our interests. He brought the matter forward at the recent meeting of the Council. There was, I believe, opposition to the recognition of either Society, but the majority were reasonable.

The official intimation was not received in time to place it on the agenda, but it is reported in the journal.

THE DRUGGISTS AND THE SOCIETY.

Mr. WELLS said he had had no conversation with Mr. Rankin, but he thought that what the President said to that gentleman voiced what the Council had been looking for. They did not want to be antagonistic in any way to the druggists. They had never been so to the law-abiding druggists, but they had been opposed to gentlemen who only got a druggist's diploma, and then compounded prescriptions. Unfortunately, some of those gentlemen who had been placed on the Council had worked, not in the interests of the druggists at all, but for their own interests. With men like Mr. Turkington it was a pleasure to work. They regretted they had not Mr. Turkington with them oftener, because, whilst he had the interests of the druggists at heart, he never outstepped their function. He (Mr. Wells) was very glad to hear what the spirit of the druggists was now, and if they would only send them reasonable men none of

the Council would oppose their fair representation. There was a gentleman in the North of Ireland whom he would have great pleasure in proposing as a druggists' representative on the Council.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he met Mr. Rankin at the Four Courts and told him that they would be perfectly ready to meet the druggists if the druggists would meet them fairly.

THE SOCIETY AND THE PHARMACOPŒIA.

Mr. WELLS: Are we to be advisers to the General Medical Council without any representation on that body?

The PRESIDENT: I don't exactly know what our position is to be; I only know that a motion was made to recognise the Pharmaceutical Society. I don't think we will be invited to sit on the Council, but I think they will refer questions to us—as to the English Society—for our information and advice.

Mr. WELLS: It is a question whether we would be right in accepting any such representation. If the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain had acted as we did and held aloof from them, you would have had your representative on the Pharmacopœia Committee to-day. They held that they could not put us on that committee; but they might as well say that they could not get a printer to print the book. They are only authorised to publish the book; it does not matter an iota who compiles it.

The PRESIDENT: We have not received any official communication on the subject. The only intimation I had is a paragraph which appeared in one of the journals stating that some recognition was decided on. I have no information as to the form in which we are to be recognised beyond that we are to be put on a footing with the English Society.

THE POWERS OF THE LORD-LIEUTENANT.

Mr. KELLY said that snubbing seemed to be the portion that the Council was to receive from the Castle. In the case of *Conyngham v. the Council of the Society* Mr. Justice O'Brien made a most uncalled-for statement. His Lordship said their apprenticeships were devised by gentlemen who desired to have the sale of chemicals in their sole dominion. That was not the case so far as pharmaceutical chemists were concerned. The first apprenticeship of two years was established when two-thirds of the Council were medical men. It was regrettable that three ex-Councillors who helped to make those regulations should try to prove them *ultra vires*. With regard to the conduct of the Privy Council in reducing those fines, if they had not the legal power to do it the Council should assert their rights.

Mr. WELLS: It is the Lord-Lieutenant who reduces them, not the Privy Council.

The PRESIDENT: He exercises the prerogative of the Sovereign. We don't know where he gets it unless it is an authority vested in him by the Queen.

Mr. KELLY said that if the Lord-Lieutenant had not the power of making these remissions the Council should question them. As for the druggists, he should be delighted to see druggists on the Council who would keep to the law. As to representation on the Medical Council, they should see what their rights were and demand them.

Mr. BAXTER said it was absurd that the Pharmacopœia Committee should not have on it a representative of pharmaceutical chemists. He was at one with the President in desiring to show favour to druggists who would work harmoniously with the Council.

The PRESIDENT: We should have a much greater political influence than we possess if we all worked together.

SIR GEORGE DUFFEY ON THE EXAMINATIONS.

A letter from the Privy Council Office transmitted a copy of the report of Sir George Duffey, M.D., Visitor, on the examinations held by the Society during the year 1898. The report was as follows:—

Preliminary Examination.—Seventy candidates presented themselves for this examination, showing a falling-off of thirty-four as compared with the exceptionally large number of candidates examined in the year 1897. Thirty-seven of the candidates (52.9 per cent.) passed, and 33 (47.1 per cent.) were rejected. This percentage of rejections

has only once previously been exceeded—viz., in 1837, when it was 47.8 per cent. The subjects in which the candidates chiefly showed deficiency were arithmetic and weights and measures. In each of these subjects 19 candidates failed to obtain the required standard of 50 per cent. of the total marks. In English the same standard was not reached by 15 of the unsuccessful candidates. In those subjects—viz., Latin, algebra, geometry, and chemistry, and in the optional subject—in each of which a candidate must obtain 20 per cent. to enable him to pass, there were, in the above order, 6, 7, 11, 8, and 16 failures. In the majority of cases the unsuccessful candidates failed in three or more of the subjects of the examination, as well as in obtaining the 40 per cent. on the entire course requisite for passing. Of the candidates—six in number—who failed in one subject only, 3 failed in English, 2 in French, and 1 in elementary physics and mechanics (optional subjects). Five candidates failed in two subjects—viz., 2 in arithmetic and in weights and measures, 1 in geometry and weights and measures, 1 in Latin and French, and 1 in chemistry and French. Fourteen candidates were examined for the second time. Of these 6 passed, and 8 were again rejected. Five candidates presented themselves for the third time for the examination. Three of these passed, and the other 2 were rejected. One candidate, who had been unsuccessful at four previous examinations, failed for the fifth time to pass. This was the first year in which elementary theoretical chemistry—formerly one of the optional subjects—was made one of the compulsory subjects of the examination; and it is satisfactory to observe that the answering in it as a rule was fair. Botany, as well as chemistry, is a subject of examination for the licence in pharmacy; and elementary botany, being one of the optional subjects of the Preliminary, was, as might be expected, very rationally the one selected by the majority of the candidates. Two only of the thirty-eight candidates who elected to be examined in this subject failed to obtain a pass-mark in it. The three candidates who presented themselves for examination in elementary physics and mechanics failed to satisfy the examiner; and of the twenty-nine candidates who took French as an optional subject 11 were rejected. As to the general ignorance of this language displayed by the majority of the candidates who presented themselves for examination in it, and whose examination I heard, I can only reiterate the remark I made on the subject in my last report. The effrontery of candidates taking as an optional subject, and presenting themselves for examination in, a language which they are unable to translate a most simple sentence of, and who cannot conjugate the present tense of the verb 'to be,' deserves something more, if possible, than rejection for six months.

The Pharmaceutical Licence Examination.—Fifty candidates presented themselves for this examination during the year. Twenty-three (46 per cent.) passed, and 27 (54 per cent.) were rejected. The number of candidates examined was twelve less than in the year 1896, but the percentage of successful candidates was higher by 5.7 per cent. Twenty-six of the candidates—more than one-half—had been rejected at one or more previous examinations for the Licence. Ten of these candidates had failed on one former occasion, and 6 of them were again rejected. Ten also presented themselves for the third time, but 5 only were successful. Two candidates who had been rejected at three previous examinations, and 2 who had been similarly dealt with on four occasions, were again rejected. One candidate presented himself for the sixth time for examination. He failed to obtain the minimum standard laid down in two subjects (botany and theoretical chemistry); but as his grand total of marks on the whole examination just made the required sum, the examiners on consultation passed him. Another persevering candidate, who had been in at seven previous examinations, was, for the eighth time, again rejected. Of the twenty-seven rejections the subject of pharmacy was accountable for failure in sixteen cases, one-half of the number being in the practical or compounding portion of this part of the examination. In chemistry there were 14 failures. Eight of these were in both the divisions—theoretical and practical—of this subject, and 3 in each of the two. There were 6 failures in both the subjects—viz., botany and materia medica—of the combined group, in

addition to 5 failures in botany and 2 in materia medica separately. With one exception, all the candidates who failed in one or more of the subjects failed also to obtain the grand total of marks on the whole examination required to pass. In the exceptional case the candidate failed to obtain the minimum number of marks in practical pharmacy. On making a further analysis of the failures it appears that, of the twenty-six rejected candidates, 5 failed in each of the three groups of subjects, 5 failed in chemistry and in pharmacy, 1 in chemistry and materia medica, and 2 in botany and pharmacy. In single subjects 5 failed in pharmacy, 4 in chemistry, 3 in botany, and 1 in materia medica.

Mr. A. L. Doran having resigned the examinership, Professor Hartley, F.R.S., of the Royal College of Science, Dublin, was appointed, with the approval of the Privy Council, as temporary examiner in chemistry, and he conducted the examination for the Licence in this subject at the July examination. Mr. A. Forbes Watson, B.Sc., and Heriot Fellow in Chemistry of the University of Edinburgh, has been elected the examiner in chemistry, and he acted as such at the October examination. Improvements have been made in the room in which the practical examination in chemistry is held, and additional sets of test-reagents have been provided. The examinations of the Society during the year were conducted in a satisfactory manner. The examiners were uniformly painstaking and considerate towards the candidates; the supervision was good and the arrangements were adequate."

The consideration of Sir G. Duffey's report was deferred until the next meeting.

REDUCTION OF PENALTIES.

A letter from the Under-Secretary, Dublin Castle, intimated that the Lord-Lieutenant had reduced the fine imposed on James Hogg to 2*l*.

Mr. KELLY: How much has the Society lost by that prosecution?

Mr. WELLS: About 10*l*. I don't think there is a bit of use in bothering ourselves about prosecutions. We ought to have a question asked in Parliament about them. If one of these Magistrates got a wrong medicine made up by some unqualified person, perhaps we should gain his sympathy. I would be disposed to ask Mr. Field, M.P., to put a question in Parliament as to whether the Society can be expected to carry on prosecutions under the circumstances. Mr. Justice O'Brien said that we were going back to the days of the guilds, and that we were a close borough. One of the Judges also said he could not understand by what authority the Lord-Lieutenant abated the penalties.

The PRESIDENT: We thought of appealing, but Mr. Clay consulted Mr. Gordon, Q.C., who said he had no doubt the Lord-Lieutenant had the power.

DONATIONS.

were received from the British Pharmaceutical Conference of their *Year-book* for 1898; from the Mason College, Birmingham, of their *Calendar* for 1898-99; and from the Smithsonian Institution of two pamphlets.

AMENDING THE REGULATIONS.

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved, pursuant to notice, that Regulation 15 be amended so as to read as follows:—"Every candidate for the Pharmaceutical Licence examination will, in addition to all other certificates hitherto required, be required to present a certificate of having attended a course of botany and materia medica, of not less than three months' duration, at some school recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. Such certificate must show an attendance of not less than twenty lectures, of not less than one hour each, in each subject." As the regulation stood the attendance of the candidate might be only for a week or a month; and he proposed to introduce the words "not less than three months' duration," in order to spread the lectures over that period.

Mr. BAXTER seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

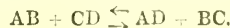
Other business, including reports, having been disposed of, the Council separated.

EVENING MEETING.

An evening meeting was held at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on Monday, the President (Mr. R. J. Downes) in the chair. There was a large attendance to hear Professor Walter G. Smith, M.D., on

THE CHEMISTRY OF INCOMPATIBILITY AND SOME OF ITS LESSONS.

Dr. SMITH, who was received with applause, began his lecture, which extended over two hours, by remarking that the subject of incompatibilities was of practical use to pharmacists. Incompatibilities, he said, were of various natures, from those married folk who occasionally figured in the Law Courts and gave illustrations of how not to be happy though married, to the chemical compound which the chemist occasionally discovered would not assimilate. In the language of the British Pharmacopoeia, incompatibility was any change which interfered with the elegance, safety, or usefulness of a prescription. New drugs brought with them new problems, and some of the recent synthetic preparations did not readily lend themselves to general rules. The simple fundamental rule to be observed by prescribers was to have as few incompatibilities in prescriptions as possible, or, in other words, there should be the least chemical action amongst the ingredients. The lecturer explained chemical action, and how it stops at low temperatures, then proceeded to speak of the chemical action between various kinds of matter—gases and gases or liquids and solids, &c.—and instanced *lotio nigra* as a good example of reaction between a liquid and a solid. Even in such intractable solids as cold metal he showed, from experiments by Roberts Austen, that diffusibility takes place, and that reaction is possible. The broad rule applicable to the greater number of cases of chemical incompatibility that confronted the prescriber and dispenser was that any two compounds would mutually decompose each other if it were possible to produce a less soluble (precipitate) body or a more volatile body (gas). The lecturer then called attention to the arrangement of classes of incompatibilities in a table, submitted, under two main groups—homogeneous and heterogeneous systems—according as a visible change of form did or did not take place; and proceeding to consider the common case of double decomposition, showed the general equation, thus—



Iron chloride + sodium acetate. Iron acetate + sodium chloride.

Silver nitrate + sodium chloride $\text{AgCl} + \text{NaNO}_3$. These experiments he showed, remarking that they illustrated the class of decompositions which most concerned practical pharmacists. In the equation shown the relative amounts of the resultant substantially depended only upon the relative quantities of AB and CD and upon the degrees of attraction between the radicles A, C, B, and D. He then spoke of the velocity of chemical transformation, and reversible and non-reversible reactions. And so the lecturer went on, showing how much scientific principle really underlies the simplest instance of incompatibility, and giving many familiar examples of incompatibility which illustrate chemical laws; and the lecture was brought to a close by Dr. Smith referring to some chemical experiments made a short time before by Mr. Henry O'Connor, Hon. Secretary of the scientific meetings (who acted as the lecturer's assistant), and humorously instanced certain remedies or antidotes which were only known to those who were ignorant of chemistry. Throughout the lecture, which was delivered *extempore* and with the utmost fluency, the attention of the audience never wavered, and frequent outbursts of applause greeted the successful experiments.

On the motion of Mr. W. F. WELLS (ex-President of the Society), seconded by Dr. EVANS, a vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Smith for his lecture; and Dr. SMITH replied.

MANNA OF THE WILDERNESS.—Recent investigation by Henry Castrey shows that the thallophyte, *Canova esculenta*, which the children of Israel ate as manna, contains 32 per cent. of carbohydrates, 4 per cent. of fat, 14 per cent. of nitrogenous bodies, 29 per cent. of bodies free from nitrogen, 5 per cent. of mineral matter, and 16 per cent. of water.

The Winter Session.

Liverpool Chemists' Association.

THE last meeting of the forty-ninth session was held at the Royal Institution on December 8, the President (Mr. John Bain) in the chair. Messrs. J. F. Woods and Chas. W. Dalrymple were elected as members. Among the

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN drew attention to the fact that he had come across a very wide range of melting-points in commercial paraffin. melle. The B.P. melting-point is 96° F. to 102° F., but he finds nothing under 106° , while one sample tested 107° and another 108° . The census of the meeting was that the matter was worth further investigation. Some surprise was expressed that 103° should be the melting-point of one sample which remained soft—in fact, an ointment—while the solid commercial variety was only 2° higher. Mr. Marsden promised to follow the matter up.

THE PRESIDENT drew attention to the varying colour of syr. glycerophosphatum, which varied from amber to a dark puce. It should be of the colour of the syrup of wild cherry. Customers had commented upon the differing colours of the preparation.

Mr. H. WYATT, jun., said that the difference in question was most likely due to the employment of a preserved cherry-juice in which a small quantity of salicylic acid was dissolved, and this, when combined with the iron in the glycerophosphate syrup, would give the puce colour immediately. The preparation was made according to "Pharmaceutical Formulas." The syr. glycerophosphatum should be about as deep in colour as Parrish's syrup. He believed that one firm used chloroform to preserve the cherry-juice, while another to get over the difficulty recommended the use of an artificial cherry-juice made from orris-root and essence of orange.

Mr. R. C. COWLEY, reverting to his paper read at the last meeting on the drying of alkaloidal residues in organic assays, said the best method for removing the ether from the watery liquid was to use a syringe with an indiarubber band wrapped round the piston, after part of the cotton had been removed. Mr. J. T. HORNBLLOWER said that he had no difficulty in removing the ether with a pipette; he simply used a blind teat on the pipette. However, morphia was not soluble in ether, and therefore he did not see that the question of quantity mattered very much. To this Mr. COWLEY replied that morphia was slightly soluble in ether, and that therefore the quantity used was very important.

Mr. A. C. ABRAHAM said the ether might contain either water or alcohol, and in this case it would take up a small quantity of morphia, but if morphia were really soluble in absolute ether, then it was a very important matter.

Dr. CHAS. SYMES then read an address on

FEDERATION QUESTIONS.

This referred to the resolutions drafted by the Federation of Pharmaceutical Associations. He considered the first one—which suggests that firms trading under ancient titles should also use the names of the present proprietors—a good one, but it should go further by requiring this course. As to all registered chemists becoming members of the Pharmaceutical Society, he said it had long been his cherished hope that the day will come when every registered person will be a member of the Society, and he considered that this was the way that the Society would be able to press the Government. He approved of the resolution regarding poisons regulations, and briefly sketched the history of the latter, also telling the meeting what the Pharmaceutical Council had done the day before. As to the company-pharmacy resolution, he said the suggestion appeared to be that each Association should consider the subject in committee. In a general way, he said, company-trading is a broad question in itself. There are the large companies, such as the Army and Navy Stores, where only members are supplied. Then there are stores where the general public are supplied; companies formed by *bonâ-fide* chemists and druggists for carrying on a legitimate trade; and there are a large number of companies formed by unqualified persons to enable them

to evade the Pharmacy Act. Having referred to the Pharmaceutical Council's action last week, Dr. Symes concluded by moving resolutions as suggested by the Federation, leaving the company-pharmacy question for later treatment.

Mr. J. BAIN said there was no doubt that the name of an old firm was a very valuable asset; still, he thought it was as well to let the public know who were the active partners. As to the Pharmaceutical Society, he knew that every member in that meeting would do all he could for it. As to the storage of poisons, he was certain that a large percentage of the chemists of the country had arrangements for the security of themselves, if not of the British public. The Pharmaceutical Society gave several different methods of taking precautions, and he was under the impression that if the recommendations of the Society were embodied in the Pharmacy Act, it would be better to have definite methods rather than alternative methods. As to company-trading, he said that this was a question which had been discussed time after time without any good resulting. He was afraid that the interests at stake were too colossal for any attempt to be made on the part of chemists to get much alteration. As a matter of fact, these companies were compelled to keep one qualified assistant, if not more, in their shops, and they must also, according to law, only sell poisons through the hands of a qualified man. He was afraid that any Bill which went before Parliament with the object of closing the stores would be useless.

Mr. R. C. COWLEY said the policy of the Pharmaceutical Society for many years past had been weak-kneed; they were afraid to attack their enemies for fear of implicating their friends, and it was only when in the Wheeldon case they were forced to take action that they consented to notice the corruption within their own body. Since then the happier and more manly policy of remedying this sad state of affairs within had been in evidence, and now another of those actions was about to be placed on record—viz., that of making good the trust that had been placed in their hands by the Privy Council more than thirty years ago, and which had been shamefully neglected. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. STOCKDALE said that he heartily supported all that the last speaker had said; the Society had been frightened of sticking to their guns. They had not had a better chance than they have now, and he hoped they would take advantage of it.

Mr. J. HOCKEN said he was old enough to remember the Pharmacy Act passing. Its results had been most disappointing, but he thought this was largely due to the fact that a large number of the trade did not become members of the Society.

THE SECRETARY then read a letter from the Local Secretary (Mr. John Smith) in support of the resolution.

Dr. SYMES, replying, repudiated the statement that the Society had been idle, and not doing its best in many ways. A great many new members were going to join the Society almost immediately, and no doubt a better state of things would exist; but they must bear in mind that during the past few years the Society had tried to get many Bills passed for the benefit of the chemist, but they had all been thrown out. He was convinced the Council would do their utmost to place the pharmacist on a proper footing, and he hoped the members of the trade would loyally support them.

Mr. HAROLD WYATT, jun., communicated a note on

DISTILLED EXTRACT OF WITCH HAZEL.

In working recently with a variety of aldehyde reagents Mr. Wyatt had been much struck with the delicacy of that of Schiff—a solution of magenta decolourised with sulphurous acid—which gives a violet-red coloration with even the minutest traces of aldehyde. The odour of the distilled extract of witch hazel somewhat recalls that of a weak solution of formalin, and as the extract is made from the fresh plant the presence therein of formaldehyde is at any rate probable, if one is to believe the theories of botanical physiologists. With this in view, the extract was treated with Schiff's reagent, with the immediate production of a coloration. At first sight this might have been taken as fairly conclusive evidence of the presence of the conjectured formaldehyde, but further examination showed the extract was similar to that of the Pharmacopœia, being prepared with alcohol, to traces of aldehyde in which the coloration was undoubtedly due, for the application of all the known

tests for formaldehyde itself failed to give the slightest indication of its presence. This confirms the result arrived at by Mr. Alexander Gunn in a similar investigation some time ago, published in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST*.

THYROID-GLAND PREPARATIONS.

Mr. T. H. WADDESWORTH said that in view of the important position preparations of the thyroid gland were assuming, and the success which attended their administration in cases of obesity, myxodema, and kindred diseases, he ventured to bring under their notice thyrogladin (Stanford). This preparation was a standardised product of the thyroid gland prepared under conditions which preserved the active ingredients of the sheep-glands. Its elements were constant and reliable, and it was five times the strength of the raw gland. It was free from the tendency to decomposition exhibited by other products of a like nature, and was made in Liverpool, where the best facilities in the country existed for securing a good supply of fresh glands, as more sheep were killed in Liverpool in a week than in the rest of the country in the same time.

The PRESIDENT said he had found that the B.P. preparation—which was the gland simply freed from fatty matter, dried, and then powdered—was not satisfactory. When a small quantity was used from a bottle, and the remainder put away for a short time, he had found, on reopening the bottle, that there were signs of slight putrescence, which was highly objectionable. As Mr. Stanford had shown at the B.P. Conference, his preparation was calculated to meet every requirement of the pharmacist and the medical man, and the peculiar method of extracting the active principles of the gland ensured the best results.

Mr. PROSPER H. MARSDEN said that the use of the thyroid preparations had been attended with great success. Recent researches reported in the *Journal of the Chemical Society* confirmed very fully the lines which Mr. Stanford had followed in his process.

Mr. R. C. COWLEY said that the study of the thyroid compounds indicated in the B.P. led him to strongly suspect that no bacteriologist was on the Pharmacopœia Committee, as, after the glands had been prepared and sterilised, no directions were given to the chemist as to the best methods of preserving them from contamination.

Leicester Chemists' Association.

A REPRESENTATIVE meeting of Leicester chemists was held on Wednesday evening. There were present Messrs. E. H. Butler (Chairman), Goodess (Hon. Secretary), Thirby, Hearnshaw, Hampton, Cleaver, Ough, Edwards, Marfitt, Hutton, &c. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. Lloyd, Funtival, Clark, Burford, Parry, &c. After an animated discussion, in which all present took part, a resolution, proposed by Mr. THIRBY, and seconded by Mr. CLEAVER, was carried, in which the meeting recorded its unanimous support to the Pharmaceutical Society in their endeavour to obtain amendment of the law regarding company-trading. The meeting similarly expressed its adherence to the Pharmaceutical Society; then took up the question of

THE STORAGE OF POISONS.

The resolutions arrived at by the Manchester, Newcastle, and Western (London) Chemists' Associations being the basis of the discussion. The matter was fully debated, and the following resolution was passed:—

This meeting of Leicester chemists is of opinion that if the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society believes that modified measure of regulations would improve their position under the present Acts of Parliament, and conduce to greater public safety and assurance for future legislation, the case would be met by the promulgation of Parts 1 and 3 of the 1871 recommendations, but condemns Part 2 as unworkable.

Aberdeen Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING was held in Gordon's College on Tuesday evening, Mr. James Clark (President) in the chair. Some discussion arose based on a circular from the Western Chemists'

Association of London, and one from the Federation of Local Associations, suggesting legislation for the proposed new Pharmacy Bill. Ultimately it was resolved to call a meeting at an early date, and a committee was appointed to draw up resolutions embodying suggestions suitable for a new Pharmacy Bill. After the ordinary business of the evening was transacted, Mr. Ellis, pharmacy teacher, conducted the members through the new pharmaceutical department, the arrangements of which highly pleased them. The classes are well attended, the members already being considerably in excess of what was anticipated.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association.

At a meeting held at the Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, on December 7, Mr. Selby in the chair, Mr. JOHN BARCLAY, B.Sc., F.C.S., read some

FURTHER NOTES ON THE STANDARDISATION OF STROPHANTHUS PREPARATIONS.

The author gave a *résumé* of his method for estimating strophanthin, which was published in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of November 23, 1896. From experiments he had found that a tincture prepared by the new process (i.e., without preliminary ether-washing) contained more strophanthin than when made by the old. [Although the new is 1 in 40, and the old 1 in 20. See *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, page 492.—ED.] Mr. Barclay's experiments led him to the conclusion that 0.3 per cent. of strophanthin is the most useful standard to adopt for the new tincture. He proceeded to discuss the new extract of strophanthus, the utility of which, he said, had already been questioned by many commentators on the new Pharmacopœia. Since, however, the extract was an official preparation, and a somewhat potent one, it seemed desirable that it should be made to contain a definite percentage of active principle, and, following the lines of the method for standardising the tincture, he recommended the following process for the extract:—

Five grammes of the extract are dissolved in water, filtered, the filtrate shaken with two successive 5 c.c. of chloroform; the chloroformic washings are agitated with a little pure water and rejected, then the mixed aqueous washings are acidified with 1 c.c. H_2SO_4 (50 per cent.) and heated on water-bath for one hour. After cooling, the liquid is transferred to a separator and extracted with three washings of chloroform, the chloroform is washed with water (to free from H_2SO_4), distilled, and the residual strophanthidin dried at 150° F. The amount of strophanthidin yielded, multiplied by 20 and divided by 0.365, gives the proportion of strophanthin present in 100 grammes of the extract.

With regard to the strength to be chosen for the standard, per cent. seemed to be a reasonable figure, this percentage, being on all-fours with that chosen for the 1885 tincture made, like the new extract, from seeds previously treated with ether. Five samples of seeds treated according to the official method gave extracts containing (1) 2.02, (2) 2.55, (3) 3.23, (4) 3.22, and (5) 4.33 per cent. strophanthin.

Mr. Barclay thought the variation was largely due to the varying temperature used in preparing the extracts. In the case of samples 1 and 2 the evaporation of the liquid was conducted at steam-heat, while in that of 3, 4 and 5 the heat of a water-bath only was used. The seeds from which sample 4 was prepared yielded on assay 8.02 per cent. of strophanthin, and should, therefore, give an extract containing 4.01 per cent., instead of 3.22 per cent. as found. There was here proof that the heat, even of a water-bath, to the extent ordered by the Pharmacopœia results in the destruction of some of the active principle. Mr. Barclay having expressed his thanks to his assistant (Mr. E. W. Mann) for help given him in preparing his papers, proceeded to read the next one, on

NON-OFFICIAL STANDARDS FOR THE TINCTURES OF THE 1898 PHARMACOPŒIA.

The new B.P. is very disappointing in the way it has treated the standardisation of tinctures, and the object of this paper was to bring the matter once more under notice, especially as it is essential for the pharmacist and the public that the requirements of the Pharmacopœia should be as

definite as possible, and that the margin of variation in the strength of tinctures, due to variability in the drugs used should be reduced to a minimum. The accompanying list of suggested standards, compiled after many experiments extending over a number of years in the case of the 1885 Pharmacopœia, and of several months in the case of the 1898, was offered as a contribution to the subject:—

Name of Tincture	S.G. at 15.5° C.	Percentage of active ingredient alkaloid, glucoside, resin, &c., or total solid matter dried at 100° C.
Aconiti ...	0.890	0.02 ether-soluble alkaloids
Aloes... ..	0.970	7.0 total solids
Arnica	0.894	0.60 "
Asafetida ...	0.914	10.0 resin "
Aurantii	0.885	2.0 total solids
*Belladonna...	0.914	0.05 total alkaloids
Benzoin comp. ...	0.900	2.5 benzoic & cinnamic acids
Buchu	0.934	4.0 total liids
Calumbæ	0.920	0.8 "
*Camphore comp. ...	0.920	0.05 anhydrous morphine
Cannabis indic. ...	0.846	4.00 total solids
Cantharidis ...	0.838	0.25 "
Capsici	0.896	1.50 "
Cardamomi comp. ...	0.948	6.50 "
Cascarilla	0.900	1.60 resin "
Catechu	0.977	14.50 total solids
Chirata	0.920	0.80 "
*Chloroformi et morph.	1.012	
Cimicifuga	0.924	2.00 total solids
*Cinchona	0.918	1.00 alkaloids
*Cinchona comp. ...	0.918	0.50 "
Cinnamomi	0.904	2.40 total solids
Cocci	0.955	2.50 "
Colehiei	0.953	0.075 colchicine
Conii	0.896	0.09 total alkaloids
Croci	0.927	3.00 total solids
Cubebæ	0.840	2.00 oleo-resin
Digitalis	0.932	3.60 total solids
Ergotæ ammon. ...	0.934	4.00
Ferri perchloridi ...	1.086	
Gelsemii	0.925	0.025 gelsemium
Gentiane comp. ...	0.966	5.00 total solids
Guaiaci ammon. ...	0.900	15.0 resins
Hamamelidis	0.952	2.0 total solids
Hydrastis	0.925	2.5 "
Hyoscyami	0.953	0.008 alkaloids
*Iodi	0.878	2.5 iodine
Jaborandi	0.953	0.048 pilocarpine
*Jalape	0.906	1.50 resin
Kino	0.995	5.00 kinotannic acid
Kramerie	0.938	5.00 total solids
Lavandulæ comp. ...	0.836	0.60 "
Limonis	0.888	2.00 "
Lobelia ætherea ...	0.816	0.07 lobeline
Lupuli	0.938	4.00 total solids
Myrrhæ	0.854	5.60 resins
*Nucis vomicæ	0.912	0.25 strychnine
*Opii	0.958	0.75 anhydrous morphine
*Opii ammoniat. ...	0.895	0.113 "
*Podophylli	0.850	3.65 resin "
Pruni virgin.	0.934	3.00 total solids
Pyrethri	0.900	1.60 "
Quassia	0.946	0.016 quassia
Quillaie	0.919	1.25 total solids
*Quinine	0.894	2.00 quinine hydrochlor.
*Quinine ammoniat. ...	0.925	2.00 "
Rhei comp.	0.970	4.50 total solids
Seille	0.960	10.00 "
Senegæ	0.938	4.80 "
Sennæ	0.968	10.00 "
Serpentarie	0.896	2.00 "
Stramonii	0.962	0.04 total alkaloids
Strophanthi	0.892	0.30 strophanthin
Sumbul	0.898	2.50 total solids
Tolutana	0.860	2.0 benzoic & cinnamic acids
Valerianæ ammon. ...	0.942	3.00 total solids
Zingiberis	0.835	0.40 "

Mr. Barclay gave a short outline of the methods used for standardising tinctures according to his list, and the processes involved in estimating alkaloids, resins, organic acids (such as benzoic, &c.) were touched upon.

A short discussion followed in which the CHAIRMAN, Messrs. COX, LAWTON, HILLS, and BLAND took part.

Chemists' Meeting at Preston.

SIXTEEN chemists of Preston and neighbouring towns met at the White Horse Restaurant, Preston, on Tuesday last, to discuss the best means to remedy the existing state of things. Mr. ARKLE (Preston) occupied the chair, and, in an opening speech, said that while he was Local Secretary he did his utmost to induce every registered chemist to join the Pharmaceutical Society, but his proposal was generally coldly received. Childish explanations were given for not joining, and consequently the Society was helpless to assist the trade. Of 14,000 registered chemists eligible to be elected, only 2,000 had joined, and if they went to Parliament to secure the amendment of the Poisons Act or the Pharmacy Act, they were confronted with the objection "You don't represent the bulk of registered chemists." It was owing to this apathy that they were surrounded on every side by limited companies. It was complained that the Society could not stop company-trading. He regretted that the Pharmacy Act from Section 1 to 15 was a dead letter, but their object was to urge the Pharmaceutical Society to introduce a new Bill, which must, however, be backed up with all the strength at their command. Recently the Duke of Devonshire held out the threat that unless they put their house in order the question of poisons would be taken out of their hands altogether and placed under public control. He questioned if chemists cared two pence for the Poisons Act, but they did want the trade for the trade. He mentioned that they had Dr. Paul, of London, with them that evening; and, in introducing him to the meeting, the Chairman said he was with them in a private capacity, and not officially.

Dr. PAUL, discussing the principal difficulties chemists had to deal with, said they could never hope or expect to be exempt from competition, but they did complain that they had to contend with unreasonable and, in his opinion, unlawful competition on the part of companies carrying on business and assuming in connection with it the title of "chemist," which was properly reserved by statute to persons who had satisfied the requirements of the Pharmacy Act. The sale of poisons and the dispensing of medicines was another aspect in which chemists had suffered competition from stores, and here the grievance was not that an unregistered person was competing unlawfully and unfairly with them, but that some of their own fellow qualified men were assisting the stores to carry on an undertaking they could not carry on themselves. So far as the interests of the chemist and public were concerned the Pharmacy Act, 1868, might be considered entirely at an end. The position amounted to an absolute repeal of the Pharmacy Act, because any individual could commence business on his own account under the Limited Liability Act, and could command the services of a qualified man to do the dispensing and the selling of those articles which qualified men only could deal with. There might be some protection in regard to the sale of poisons, but it was by no means sufficiently perfect, and there was an absolute absence of protection in dispensing medicines. To put a stop to these evils he urged the chemists of the country to unite, and by their combined exertions bring such pressure to bear upon public opinion and the Government that some remedies might be obtained. Then there was the opposition which came from within, and as appropriate to the question of company-trading he referred to Section 16 of the Act, which provided for the continuance of a deceased chemist's business by his executors. This provision had been so grossly abused that it had become a basis for the construction of bogus one-man companies. These difficulties must be fought out within the body. Parliament would not take much cognisance of affairs of that kind beyond recognising the absurdity of the position, for if they asked for the suppression of trading companies through unqualified men they would be met with the answer, "You must first of all remove the objection which exists in the Pharmacy Act before you will be listened to."

Mr. VINCE (Lancaster), Mr. WHITEHEAD (Morecambe), Mr. JACKSON (Blackpool), Mr. TIRETT (Morecambe), and Mr. TAYLOR (Blackpool) supported the views which had been expressed. Mr. J. H. TAYLOR (St. Anne's) argued that the great obstacle to membership of the Society had been the guinea subscription, and until the Society had obtained a new charter

* Officially standardised.

which would enable the Council to compel every registered chemist to contribute, he was afraid they would not secure the membership of the whole trade. To cripple company-trading, the Society must either obtain power to disenrol a member for unprofessional conduct, or join with the Medical Council to render it illegal for a company to carry on business as an individual.

Mr. STUART (Preston) and Mr. WHITEHEAD (Morecambe) having advocated the formation of a local association which should ultimately be affiliated with the Blackburn, Manchester, and Liverpool Associations, so as to form a United Lancashire Association,

Dr. PAUL said this might lead to a Lancashire branch of the Pharmaceutical Society, which was just what was wanted.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. WILLIAMSON (Preston), two resolutions were passed; one declared that the use of the title "chemist" by unregistered persons trading as companies is an infringement of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and should be stopped by the co-operation of all registered chemists and druggists as members of the Pharmaceutical Society; and the other condemning the support given by legally qualified chemists to companies trading as chemists and druggists as injurious and disloyal action.

North-East Lancashire Chemists' Association.

THIS Association met at the White Bull, Blackburn, on Tuesday evening, and representatives of the trade were present from Blackburn, Burnley, Accrington, and other towns. Mr. Councillor Shorrock, of Darwen, presided in the absence of the President (Mr. Councillor Critchley). The CHAIRMAN said the Act of 1868 had been so shattered in various ways that it was like a piece of cloth torn in holes. It had been ridden through by a coach-and-four to the detriment of the trade. The question was, Should they attempt to patch up this shattered measure, or scatter it to the four winds of heaven and have a new one? Companies were doing an immense amount of harm to chemists and druggists. It behoved the trade to form associations through which they could speak to the authorities with effect. He hoped their Association would show the country that it was necessary to have a measure of justice. When men had passed the examinations they ought to have some consideration in order to meet their expense and trouble. If the examinations were not difficult enough, let them be made more difficult, but they must have their position supported.

Mr. WELLS moved the following resolution:—"We are of opinion that limited liability companies owned by unqualified persons are illegal, and we urge this opinion upon the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society with a view to immediate action to test the question." Their position, he said, was becoming very serious, and unless the present state of things was altered many would be ruined. Action was necessary in the interests of the public. It was the duty of the Pharmaceutical Society to bring this state of things to an end. Any measure that was passed should be retrospective and should put down the existing unqualified pharmacy.

Mr. BROWN (Burnley) seconded the resolution, and

Mr. HEATON (Burnley), and Mr. COATES (Burnley) supported it, the latter in a lengthy speech, which argued that the use of the title "chemist" could be prevented. He believed that if the Society were to proceed against the seven individuals who formed a company for infringement of the Act, they would gain their case.

Mr. LORD GIFFORD went over the whole ground of the grievances and the suggested remedies. He insisted that "Action! Action! Action!" was needed at once.

Mr. HAWORTH followed with a strong denunciation of the limited-liability system.

Mr. COWLEY, of Liverpool, Secretary of the Federation, commended the North-East Lancashire Society, which, he said, had attracted notice throughout the country. They must attack the unqualified people who were spreading deleterious drugs throughout the country.

Mr. WILKINSON (Colne) also supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Dr. PAUL, of London, afterwards addressed the meeting.

Bradford and District Chemists' Association.

At a special meeting of this Association, held on December 6, at the County Restaurant, thirteen members present, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. That in the opinion of the meeting it is desirable that members of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain should be requested to visit the different centres and address meetings under the auspices of local associations where possible, submit identical resolutions, and obtain the general opinion of the trade respecting further legislative action. The following questions should be specially considered:—

(1) Restriction to chemists of sale of medicinal drugs and compounding of medicines.

(2) Company-pharmacy.

(3) Covering of unqualified traders by registered chemists.

(4) Handling of poisons and additions to schedule.

(5) Compulsory membership of the Society of qualified individuals.

(6) Exemption from jury-service of members of Society.

(7) Exhibition of names of qualified members over their establishments.

2. In view of the passing of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Act (1898), this meeting suggests that members of this Association who are at present members of the Pharmaceutical Society use their best effort to induce all registered chemists in the district to become members of the Pharmaceutical Society, and are requested to render any assistance in their power to the Local Secretaries in carrying out this resolution.

3. This meeting of the members of the Bradford and District Chemists' Association records its conviction that it is not worth their while encouraging in any way the sale of such advertised specialities as bear at the current retail prices no appreciable profit. Accordingly, they decline to exhibit or distribute advertising-matter having for its object the popularising of such specialities unless their proprietors become members of the P.A.T.A. or guarantee a living profit on their goods, thus showing practically their sympathy with the great body of retail chemists. Also that copies of this resolution be sent to the trade papers and the following firms:—Dinnelord & Co., Kaye Brothers, W. T. Owbridge, A. J. White (Limited), Thomas Beecham, James Cockle & Co., J. M. Richards, Edwards & Co., G. R. Sims Hair-restorer Company, Scott & Bowne, Anglo-American Drug Company, and J. C. Eno (Limited).

4. That this meeting of the Bradford and District Chemists' Association desires to compliment the Dewsbury and District Chemists' Association on their action in regard to the sales of unprofitable proprietary articles.

The Association has given other associations a point by instituting

A CHILDREN'S PARTY.

The use of a room at the County Restaurant was obtained for the purpose, and suitably upholstered and decorated, and here, on Tuesday last, a merry party of thirty-three children assembled to spend an enjoyable evening in a round of amusements directed by the members and their lady relatives. Among the ladies and gentlemen present were Mr. A. H. Waddington (President) and Mrs. Waddington, Mr. Geo. Rimmington and Mr. S. N. Pickard (Vice-Presidents), Miss Rimmington and Mrs. Pickard, Mr. R. W. Silson (Hon. Treasurer) and Mrs. Silson, Mr. J. A. Mitchell (Hon. Secretary) and Mrs. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Newbould, Mr. and Mrs. Milner, Mrs. Gibbings, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. A. Lister and Miss Lister, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Moulton, and Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Wilcock. The little guests having been received in proper fashion by Mr. and Mrs. Waddington, the festivities began with the dancing of a polka and this was followed by some lively parlour-games. The juveniles then settled down for a magic-lantern exhibition, pictures of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin" being put on the screen to the accompaniment of a recitation of the story by Mr. Silson, and a number of comic slides were also shown. Games were resumed for a while, and then Mr. Silson descended from an upper room in the conventional garb of "Santa Claus," and bearing a load of toys for the children, which were promptly distributed. Mr. Waddington gave to each of the children an additional gift in the shape of a volume of the *Bond of Mercy*. Miss Doris Waddington gave a recitation entitled "Perseverance," and, after a hearty supper had been partaken of, the evening's proceedings wound up with the Sir Roger de Coverley. The party gave great pleasure to the little ones, and perhaps hardly less to the adults who were present. [We report this somewhat fully so as to show other localities how it is done; but, although we have

a soft side to the bairns, it will need a juniors' *C. & D.* to do justice to them if all the chemists in the country follow Bradford's example.—EDITOR.]

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association.

THE new P.A.T.A. Committee of the Manchester Pharmaceutical Association met on December 12, Mr. Walter Gibbons presiding. The committee sat an hour and a half.

They will probably urge upon manufacturers that chemists are showing much less opposition to protected articles than to those which are not protected, and that the large stores give commissions to their assistants for selling their own preparations as substitutes for advertised articles.

The December meeting was held at the Victoria Hotel on Wednesday night, Mr. G. S. Woolley in the chair. The CHAIRMAN extended a hearty welcome to a number of pharmacists from Wigan. During the afternoon they had, in company with himself, paid a visit to

THE OWENS COLLEGE,

and spent a pleasant afternoon. The arrangements at the College for pharmaceutical education seemed to be admirable. They had a sufficient number of students to fill one laboratory, and another laboratory was available should more students be got together. Mr. PRINCE replied on behalf of the Wigan visitors. He had been astonished at the educational facilities afforded at the Owens College.

Mr. J. RYMER YOUNG, of Warrington, then read a paper on

THE PHARMACY ACT, 1868, LITERALLY INTERPRETED.

Mr. YOUNG prefaced his analysis of the Pharmacy Act by a short [and, we may add, a not quite accurate] sketch of the legislative history which preceded its enactment. He pointed out that the Act was passed by the Legislature exclusively in the public interest, and not in any degree to enable chemists and druggists to monopolise any branch of trade. He inferred from the preamble that the Act declares that the public safety requires the proprietors of all pharmacies to be duly registered. But the Legislature did not, in 1868, and does not now, care one iota about the interests, vested or otherwise, of chemists and druggists; there is not a word in the Act indicating any anxiety in that direction, and whatever efforts may be made in the future to secure further legislative powers in connection with the practice of pharmacy, it would, he thought, be exceedingly unwise to attempt to secure any privileges that are not absolutely compatible with, and likely to promote, "the safety of the public." Having traced how the proprietary qualification required by the Act was interfered with by the House of Lords decision, Mr. Young proceeded to deal with the sections of the Act *seriatim*. Section 1, he noted, referred to conforming to regulations as to keeping, &c., poisons. If these existed, a breach of them would authorise the removal of the offender's name from the register (Section 26). The Pharmaceutical Society could thus, if it wished, punish the black sheep of the profession. Alluding to the adoption of such regulations, the prescribing of them, he said, must be the act of the Society as a whole, not of its Council (which after all, can only reflect the will of the body corporate), and up to the present the members of the Society—purbblind and fatuous, to their own discredit and hurt—have not seen fit to do what is requisite to carry out the manifest intentions of the section. The fact of thus providing for making and enforcing such regulations seems to afford proof that the keeper or proprietor of the shop is the person the Legislature intended should be registered, as it could hardly have been contemplated that the qualified assistant of an unqualified person should be proceeded against for a breach of those regulations. A further point is that, according to the wording of this section, the regulations are not to touch "compounding." This is significant, as a recognition that the skilled portion of the calling of pharmacy must be left to the discretion of the competent—*i.e.*, registered—man without conditions. It is a question whether section 1 could not be construed as making it illegal for a person to "compound" a poison unless he is a registered person, and the "compounding" of all official medicines is by strong impli-

cation confined to registered men. A clause to convert this strong implication into a clearly defined restriction might probably be accepted by the Legislature.

Commenting on Section 15, the chief penal section, Mr. Young said there are seven distinct offences specified in this section—(1) the illegal sale of poison; (2) keeping open shop for such sale; (3) keeping open shop illegally for dispensing poison; (4) keeping open shop illegally for compounding poison; (5) illegally taking, using, or exhibiting the name or title of chemist and druggist, &c.; (6) failing to conform with any regulation made in pursuance of the Act, with regard to the keeping or selling of poisons; (7) compounding any medicines of the British Pharmacopœia except according to the formularies of that work. These offences were dealt with at considerable length, Mr. Young remarking on the various decisions, especially that of the House of Lords in the London and Provincial Supply Association case. Commenting on the exemptions in Section 16, Mr. Young said with regard to apothecaries and veterinary surgeons, no reasonable objection can be taken to their exemption; besides, it would be absolutely useless to object. But the "business of a legally-qualified apothecary," he might suggest, does not involve the keeping of open shop, or it would surely be subject to regulations as to the keeping, &c., of poisons. It is not an apothecary's "business" to keep a chemist's shop. The exemption of executors, administrators, or trustees, he regarded as weakest of all weak spots in the Act and at the bottom of all our troubles. The fact that unqualified persons—acting as executors, administrators, or trustees—are permitted by the law to carry on the business of pharmacy without special restrictions, so long as a duly qualified assistant is employed to conduct the business, provided the judges in the case of the London and Provincial Supply Association with such a good reason for deciding in favour of the legality of unqualified company pharmacy as would probably—nay, almost certainly—not otherwise have been found. For the supposed interests of a few widows and heirs of deceased chemists, who might not unreasonably have been left to make a living in some sphere for which they were better fitted, the whole craft has had to suffer in sackcloth and ashes for nearly twenty years. He considered, too, that this exception in Section 16 has been grossly abused; steps ought to be taken to vindicate the law where trusts have ended without the conditions under which business is carried on being altered. How long is an executor an executor? Death, completion of trust, and other circumstances terminate his or her duty, and the exemption of the section then no longer applies. But there are cases in which no proceedings have yet been taken, although the trusts appear to have been completed, and the present proprietors of the businesses are unregistered persons. Take the case of a man whose father was a registered person, with several branch businesses. After his death his widow carries on business under Section 16, and opens other branches a distinct infringement, it seemed to him. In the event of her death, can any reasonable man contend that her trustee—an unqualified person—is entitled to the exemption of Section 16? He would not be the trustee of a registered man, but the trustee of the deceased wife of a registered man. At the same time, he is not a registered chemist, and unless his position can be shown to be illegal he may in turn bequeath the trusteeship to another unqualified person. Dealing with Section 17, Mr. Young pointed out that as regards corporate bodies it has repeatedly been held that they are liable to penalties for any infraction of Section 17, and the Interpretation Act of 1891 put that matter on a definite basis. The reason they are liable under Section 17, though they are not liable under Section 15, is that the penalties in the former case must be recovered in a court of summary jurisdiction, and not in a county court. Inasmuch as the Interpretation Act applies to Scotland, where all cases under the Pharmacy Acts must be tried in courts of summary jurisdiction, it would appear as if we could proceed under both sections there. As it happens, however, the whole of the 1868 Act is practically a dead letter in Scotland. The decision in the Leith Depot case—according to which the individual members of a corporate body cannot be sued in Scotland for trading as chemists and druggists—appears to have been too much taken for granted. We ought to bring a test case under Section 15 against a Scottish limited com-

pany, arguing that the Interpretation Act renders a corporation a person within the meaning of the section. In Scotland, by the way, an ordinary firm is held to be a corporation, though in England a decision to the contrary effect was given last year in the case of the Pharmaceutical Society v. Potter.

After briefly referring to the remaining sections of the Act, Mr. Young concluded by referring to the evils and unfairness to examined chemists of company-pharmacy. The obviously best remedy for the existing state of affairs is for Parliament to declare that the word "person" wherever used in the Pharmacy Act, 1868, shall include any corporate body, and that unqualified persons acting as executors, &c., of deceased chemists shall only be entitled to carry on the business of a chemist and druggist for a limited period. That period might be extended at the discretion of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, but in any case this weak spot in our armour ought to be removed. With regard to the alleged prescriptive rights of companies now carrying on the business of chemists and druggists, such "rights" are mere evasions of the Statute. It may be that the spirit of the times will prove too strong for us and prevent us attaining the position that, as duly qualified pharmacists, we aspire to. At the same time, it is doubtful if anything less is really worth fighting for.

The CHAIRMAN moved that the best thanks of the Association were due to Mr. Young for his very able paper, which must have taken a great deal of time to compile, and which showed a great acquaintance with the Pharmacy Act. The paper was one they could hardly discuss on the present occasion, but he thought it could be profitably utilised during the winter.

Mr. GILBERT seconded the motion.

Mr. KEMP commented on the importance of the paper, and

Mr. KIRKBY endorsed all Mr. Young had said in endeavouring to find out how useful this Act might be to them. There were many points which showed them that they were not making as much use of it as they might. He trusted the Pharmaceutical Council would find their hands strengthened that night by some resolution for testing some of the matters brought under their notice, with a view of seeing whether something could be done to curtail the powers of company-pharmacists.

The CHAIRMAN said he did not think they could take the course that night which Mr. Kirkby had indicated. He should, therefore, ask them to pass the resolution with acclamation.

This was done with great enthusiasm.

Mr. YOUNG expressed his thanks for the vote which had been tendered to him. What he had advanced was purely his own opinion, and must not be taken as representing the views of the Pharmaceutical Council. There was no question of originality about his paper, but he had thought they might discuss the 1868 Act. He found that different clauses were capable of different reading, and he thought they might rub up an old law with regard to the present miserable state of the Pharmacy Act.

At the smoking concert which followed pianoforte selections were played by Mr. Pontefract, and songs, recitations, comic effusions, &c., were given by Messrs. Hankinson, Garry, Greenwood, Wingfield, Woodruff, Rawsthorne, Crowe, and Hastings.

Sheffield Chemists and Company-pharmacy.

A MEETING of the Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society was held at their rooms on Wednesday night, when the PRESIDENT (Mr. George Squire) read a paper on

COMPANY-PHARMACY.

He spoke of the brightening prospects of pharmacy, and said if chemists had shown the same enthusiasm years ago as they were displaying now, company-pharmacy would never have assumed its present gigantic proportions. He was also of opinion that if, in 1868, the possibility of company-pharmacy had been foreseen, the Pharmacy Act would have been so worded that it could not be ridden through. Having dwelt on the evils of company-pharmacy, the President urged union with a view to combat the difficulty.

He also suggested education of the people in the difference between company-pharmacy and their own establishments. He strongly urged that the Pharmaceutical Society should unite with the General Medical Council and the Dental Association to promote a Bill for the benefit of all three professions. In that Bill chemists should ask for power to strike off the register any man guilty of unprofessional conduct, such as acting as a cover to a limited-liability company. The present was a specially opportune time for proceeding with such a measure, as the Houses of Parliament were with them, medical men were with them, and the public would be with them, as they would see justice was on their side.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. G. ELLINOR argued that company-pharmacy was illegal, and the only thing for the meeting to do was to urge the Pharmaceutical Society to go for the throat of the Secretary of the Board of Trade, and bring him to his senses.

Mr. C. O. MORRISON feared that what they were really working for was self-preservation, and not for the care of the public. He urged that the only hope of salvation for pharmacy was personal doggedness in the cultivation of those branches of the trade for which each man was specially qualified. Other speakers followed, and, after a lengthy debate, a resolution was adopted commending the recent action of the Pharmaceutical Society.

Forfarshire and District Chemists' Association.

THE first general meeting for the session was held on Wednesday in the Queen's Hotel, Dundee, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Kerr. There was a fair representation of town and country members, and after a pleasant hour spent round the tea-table the members proceeded to discuss some of the subjects which have recently come before the trade.

The first of these was

FIRM NAMES.

After the CHAIRMAN had referred to the new conditions of membership of the Pharmaceutical Society, Mr. FERRIER, in moving the Federation resolution, contended that in the public interest, as well as that of the trade, it was advisable to publish names of responsible managers when trading under ancient titles. Mr. KERMATH (St. Andrews) next moved that the present recommendations for

THE STORAGE OF POISONS

should become regulations subject to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act. He thought the suggestions were sufficiently practical, and might be adopted with advantage in modern pharmacies. Mr. CURRIE (Glasgow) referred to the history of the subject as detailed in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and, after a mild protest from members who thought half-educated nurses more to blame than chemists for many of the accidents that take place, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. PARK (Broughty Ferry) had charge of the motion on

COMPANY-PHARMACY,

and asked the approval of the meeting for the action of the Pharmaceutical Council in addressing the Lord Chancellor on the subject as it affects chemists.

Mr. FORD (Kirriemuir) seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr. DOIG made a few suggestions as to what the next Pharmacy Bill should contain. He thought a free discussion of the subject would be helpful. He contended that with compulsory education should come some measure of protection and privilege. He laid considerable stress on the fact that local Associations might do an important service by using their influence to get a clause inserted in the Bill presently being promoted in the interests of medicine and dentistry. He thought that chemists had an equal, if not a better, claim to such protection.

Mr. CURRIE thought the Act of 1868 had never been fairly interpreted in its relation to the trade, and considered that the Pharmaceutical Society had lost prestige in leaving the matter where it did.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Besides these imperial matters the Association also had matters directly affecting the members to settle. A representative of a London firm attended on behalf of his principals, to whom a complaint had been addressed by the Secretary, to the effect that, *inter alia*, their cascara capsules had been placed in the hands of a firm of cutting grocers in Dundee in competition with the same article as supplied to the trade. The London firm replied in effect that the capsules were forwarded along with a parcel of their infants' food, without any question arising in their minds, as they did not know whether the firm implicated were grocers pure and simple or had, like many in the South, a separate dispensing-department, and that, owing to the confusion into which the trade has been thrown, it has become impossible to draw an effective line of demarcation in the execution of general orders.

Mr. Beecham also came in for a share of attention in connection with page 7 of the pamphlet circulated along with his pills. It was agreed to ask him to omit this portion of it in future.

After these matters were disposed of, the members had a conversation as to where they would meet next. Kirriemuir, Montrose, and St. Andrews were suggested, and the selection was left in the hands of the President and the Secretary.

Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association.

At a meeting of this Association on Wednesday evening, Mr. Gascoyne, Vice-President, in the chair, Mr. A. EBERLIN introduced a discussion on

THE NEW B.P.

He said his object was to briefly touch on those alterations which may be termed important, both as regards the position of the pharmacist to the physician, to the public, and to himself, relatively to the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act. Firstly, among the acid group carbolic acid claims attention; the m.p. has now been raised from 33° C. to 33.8° C., and the boiling-point is now 359°, thus ensuring a purer acid. It is quite easy to obtain acid conforming to these requirements.

Acid. Hydrocyanic. remains at same strength as before. Some few years ago he was examining a sample of newly-purchased dilute acid from one of the most eminent houses in the land, when he found it to contain almost 4 per cent. HCN. The acid had been prepared of stronger percentage, and wrongly diluted.

Amyl Nitrite.—A very important body, and one most difficult to keep without deterioration. He thought the safest course would be for the pharmacist to procure it in glass capsules of small capacity, using one whenever it is demanded, and thus to trust to the manufacturer for its original strength and purity.

Mr. Eberlin then referred to *cera flava*, glycerin, and liquors. Regarding alcohol he said the dilutions are easily made and, if the chemist has handy a good hydrometer (and he ought to have), easily checked. He also mentioned that he has paid a good deal of attention to commercial samples of spt. æther. nit., and urged the importance of always estimating the volume of nitric oxide when purchasing, and of storing in small, well-stoppered bottles, which shall not be too frequently opened before being used up. His experience is that it is not easy to purchase spirit yielding much above five volumes of gas, and this, if not kept with great care, is bound to fall under the "not much less than five volumes" requirement before the end.

The extracts of the Pharmacopœia have undergone very considerable modification, upon the whole, in the direction of improvement.

Liquid extract of belladonna is prepared by a process of repercolation with alcohol, and the product is to be standardised so as to contain 0.75 grammes of alkaloids in 100 c.c. The process of estimation appears very simple, but in practice is most tedious. It consists in taking up the alkaloids from the liquid, first rendered alkaline by ammonia with chloroform, separating, repeating to a third time, then converting these into soluble sulphates by H_2SO_4 , and again separating, taking back again into chloroform, after rendering alkaline, and washing the aqueous menstruum with more

chloroform, finally evaporating, and after dissolving the residue (first weighed—why?) in decinormal HCl, titrating back with centinormal soda.

It is this repeated separation of a chloroformic solution from an aqueous one which constitutes the difficulty and the danger of error (it occurs eight times in all). Those of you who have done it know the slowness with which separation proceeds; there seems an inveterate tendency to form a sort of emulsion and to remain so. Mr. Eberlin then quoted Mr. Barclay's recent results (*C. & D.*, November 26), to show the need which he has always advocated—to keep a strict watch on the wholesale houses—themselves, in many instances, not the manufacturers. After referring to other standardised extracts he said if anyone will devise for us a more simple and handy process for the separation and estimation of alkaloids in such preparations as are to contain them, he will confer the greatest boon on his fellow craftsmen. This standardisation might well be applied to preparations of aconite, colchicum, digitalis, strophanthus, &c., which will now vary very much. Many pharmacists have raised an objection to this as making the Pharmacopœia a manufacturer's one more than ever. He failed to see it. He had seen a tincture of aconite fail to give any of the desired results, and a second one from a standardised fluid give those results most gratifyingly—*verb. sap.*

Pepsin was next briefly referred to, Mr. Eberlin stating that an American proprietary pepsin alone gave him satisfactory results previous to this new B.P. appearing. In regard to cream of tartar—now 98 per cent., instead of 92 per cent. as formerly—he thought that it would be perfectly legal to sell for commercial uses a lower one, providing you do not fail to say so.

Sulphur Precip. has now as a synonym "milk of sulphur." Therefore an article so labelled should respond to the B.P. tests, and show an absence of lime. Could not the old preparation be still sold as "*lac sulphuris*" if so desired?

The author then proceeded to discuss the legal bearings of the B.P., quoting from the Medical Acts and the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, also referring to the rulings of the Courts, which have been most contradictory; which they must be, until the Act is amended and a proper standard fixed under it, and a board of reference instituted, as has been proposed.

Thus white wax has been held not to be a drug when sold by a grocer, but it probably would be if sold by a chemist. A leading case usually quoted is that of *White v. Bywater*. The defendant was summoned for selling the Sheffield Medical Officer tincture of opium of deficient strength. The Stipendiary dismissed it on the ground that B.P. tr. opii was not asked for, but the Court of Appeal reversed his decision.

Still, there are cases, such as that of soda-water, vinegar, &c., where the contention of "usual custom" has prevailed.

At any rate, whilst we, as a body of educated and honourable men, are desirous of always supplying the best drugs to our customers, we have a right to demand that the Act should not be administered in a harsh and literal manner as against a sensible and reasonable one. It would be well, therefore, where cases of petty persecution take place, for us to write and defend ourselves vigorously, for, depend upon it, such an action, if crowned with success, would curb the tendency of over-zealousness which officialdom sometimes shows, and would make the analyst more careful.

Mr. Eberlin supplemented his remarks with various demonstrations, and in concluding referred to THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1899, containing by far the best *résumé* of the Pharmacopœia which he had yet seen.

Mr. MIDDLETON proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Eberlin, and remarked that it was not sufficient that those who administered the Foods and Drugs Act should always bring the Pharmacopœia as their authority. The condition of things in this respect was very unsatisfactory, and the paper just read should make them alive to the fact.

Mr. SERGEANT seconded the vote of thanks.

Mr. BEILBY observed that most of them had felt pretty confident, when they took preparations of the B.P. from recognised houses, that they were really buying the article of the Pharmacopœia, and it gave them very great misgivings to think they could take, for example, tincture of aconite in a dose of an ounce or two as a sort of pick-me-up. He hoped Mr. Eberlin had a little exaggerated his opinions

upon that point. He supposed they were all prepared to admit that the Pharmacopœia was the standard for galenical preparations and drugs almost entirely used in medicine. The distinction which Mr. Eberlin drew was the one he should accept, and which he thought was perfectly just—viz., the preparations of the Pharmacopœia for those drugs which were entirely used in medicines; but for such as borax and saltpetre it was obvious that some other standard should be used. It was unjust that the public who wanted milk of sulphur should not be able to obtain it.

Mr. GILL said the Act should be for the prosecution of offenders, and not for the persecution of honest tradespeople, as very frequently happened now. Mr. Eberlin's remarks should emphasise the fact that they ought to be exceedingly careful about the storage of their drugs. It would be well if chemists could make a firm stand, and have cases in which prosecutions took place tied on their merits.

Mr. COOK remarked that wholesale houses ought to be in a position and honourable enough to provide retail chemists with proper standardised articles. Retail chemists ought not to be harassed about the question of standard, but ought to be able to get their articles according to the requirements of the ordinary retail trade.

Mr. DANIELS (Messrs. Barron, Harvey & Co.) said chemists had neither the time nor the inclination to test everything that came into their shops from wholesale houses, and they relied largely upon the integrity of the wholesale houses. It was to the advantage of wholesale houses to gain the confidence of their clients, and they must do that largely by trying to prove that the label which appeared on the bottle should guarantee the quality of the article it contained.

The CHAIRMAN said few chemists had neither time nor inclination to carry out the standardisations in which Mr. Eberlin seemed to revel. Moreover, it was illogical and absurd to suppose that wholesale houses should not be able to guarantee that their preparations were up to the Pharmacopœia. He never knew an instance in which wholesale houses were not prepared at any cost to defend any case in which their preparation was brought into question. The Act made no mention of the Pharmacopœia. It was quite understood, however, that magistrates adopted it as the standard, and therefore chemists had to acknowledge and meet it, even in the matter of a seidlitz powder. The Act did not say they should not supply such a thing as milk of sulphur, for example, but that it should be of the substance and quality demanded by the purchaser. If they stated that it was not of Pharmacopœia standard, there would be no offence. As to the question of magisterial decisions, they found benches in one town holding something quite different to what was held in another town.

Mr. EBERLIN briefly replied.

Spectacle-makers' Company.

OPTICAL COMMITTEE.

A MEETING of the Optical Committee of the Spectacle-makers' Company was held at the Albion, Aldersgate Street, E.C., on December 13. The report from the examiners at the recent examination was received. The diploma was presented in proof, and the wording passed subject to some small alterations. The regulations which will be required to be signed by the recipients of the diplomas were finally passed. These regulations require, among other things, that the certificate shall not be carried about for commercial purposes, that the possessor shall not exhibit bogus optical diplomas, advertise in an unfair or misleading manner, or use drugs for the purpose of paralysing the accommodation of the eye. The exact date of presentation of the diplomas was left for the Master to decide; it will be towards the end of January. A motion was carried as to the desirability of the Company being represented at the Paris Exhibition of 1900, and if the suggestion meets with the approval of the Court further action will be taken to make an exhibit representative of the optical trade of Great Britain.

Professor Silvanus P. Thompson (an examiner) and Dr. W. H. Walsley (Principal of the Northampton Institute) have recently become liverymen of the Company.

Festivities.

C.A.A. CINDERELLA.

The second Cinderella of the season given by the Chemists' Assistants' Association was held at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., on December 8, and was a decided success. There were about 100 present, and dancing was continued till midnight, everything going smoothly under the efficient superintendence of Messrs. C. W. Martin and A. H. Solomon, the M.C.'s. The next dance will take place on January 4.

HALIFAX CHEMISTS DINE.

The annual dinner and meeting of the Halifax Chemists' Association were held on December 8, Mr. G. M. Cobb (President) in the chair. A good attendance of members resulted, and there were present as guests Messrs. C. E. Waddington (President of the Bradford Chemists' Association), Crook (Vice-President of the Dewsbury Chemists' Association), N. Pickard (Local Secretary of the P.A.T.A.), and James Smith (York). A vote of condolence was passed to Miss Farr on the death of her father, a Past-President of the Society. The financial statement of the Treasurer (Mr. W. Haigh) showed the Society to be in a sound financial position, and Mr. H. C. Brierley (Secretary), in his annual report, told of the successful work of the Association during the year, and of an increased membership. He referred sympathetically to the loss to the Society caused by the death during the year of Messrs. H. Seely, F.C.S., and J. Farr. The election of officers resulted in the re-election of Messrs. Cobb, Haigh, and Brierley as President, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively. During the evening songs were given by the Secretary, Mr. Tiffany, and Councillor Hebden, and piano selections by Mr. Reginald Brierley.

DOGGIE MEN HAPPY.

There were no dogs at the fourth annual Bohemian smoking-concert which the lively conductors of Spratt's Patent gave at the Bridge House Hotel on the evening of December 9. The spacious hall was well filled, and the entertainment was first class. Mr. A. Vaughan was in the chair. Mr. Selfe Fowler opened proceedings with a Mazurka, and the clarinet solo by Mr. W. J. Savidge, the songs by Miss Mary Tipper and Miss Tina Cullen, and those by Messrs. James Davis, E. W. Scolding, and F. W. Richardson were heartily applauded. Mr. Wallis Arthur and Mr. Alfred Green were immensely popular, but "Bertram the Great" was the lion of the evening. The "twins" (Messrs. Avon and Clare) delighted the company, and so did Mr. Alf Davies.

F. & J.'S SMOKER.

On the evening of December 14 the employees of Messrs. Fassett & Johnson, 31 and 32 Snow Hill, E.C., held a very successful smoking-concert at the Salutation Restaurant, Newgate Street, E.C., at which a large number of friends were also present. A long and varied programme had been prepared, and every item was well carried out. The chair was occupied during the earlier part of the evening by Mr. R. R. Hunting, manager. A letter was read from Mr. W. H. Fassett expressing regret at being unable to be present. The toast of "The Firm" was proposed by Mr. Hunting, and responded to by Mr. L. O. Johnson, who took the chair upon his arrival later in the evening. Among the performers were Messrs. Arthur Guest, Arthur Sidney, J. Grieves (mandoline), Will Parker (reciter), W. Warren, R. Devinish, Real, and T. Doncaster (banjo). "The health of Mr. R. W. Smith," who has just returned from South Africa, where he successfully represented the firm, was well received, and was replied to by Mr. Smith in a short speech.

"PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS."—Dr. Philip Muskett, of Sydney, N.S.W., author of "Prescribing Treatment for Infants and Children," writes: "I can only say that, like the child represented pictorially as reaching after Pears' soap, after seeing a copy of 'Pharmaceutical Formulas,' I did not feel happy till I got it."

Trade Notes.

WE note that "Sen-Sen" is now being advertised in all the leading weekly and monthly magazines.

MR. PEDER DEVOLD, of Aalesund, has appointed Messrs. Linton, Hubbard & Co., 27 Leadenhall Street, E.C., sole agents for his cod-liver oil.

GALEN COCA-WINE.—The Galen Manufacturing Company (Limited) (John Moss & Co.), Wilson Street, New Cross, S.E., have published a new showcard for their Galen cocaine, which they will send to any retailers. It is an artistic chromograph.

WE have received from Messrs. Brewster, Smith & Co., 6 Cross Street, Finsbury, E.C., very complete catalogues of chemical apparatus and chemical reagents which they publish. These are the first they have issued, the firm being a new one. The partners were formerly with leading metropolitan houses in this line of business.

THE FRAME FOOD COMPANY (LIMITED) are advertising that they receive thousands of applications for samples of their products, and they like to refer these applicants to chemists who stock them. They therefore ask the chemists who buy the articles through the wholesale houses to let them have their names.

HOLIDAY-CLOSING.—The following firms intimate that their establishments will be closed from Saturday afternoon (December 24) until the Wednesday morning following:—Messrs Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., Snow Hill Buildings, E.C.; Messrs. Bourne, Johnson & Latimer, Farnival Street, E.C.; Messrs. Eugène Gérard & Co., Farringdon Road, E.C.

PARTNERSHIP DISSOLVED.—In the *London Gazette* of December 13 a dissolution of partnership in the firm of Messrs. Cresswell Brothers and Schmitz, sponge importers, Red Lion Square, W.C., is announced as regards Mr. F. R. Cresswell. It appears that the business in Cape Town which Mr. F. R. Cresswell is opening will be distinct from that of Messrs. Cresswell Brothers and Schmitz.

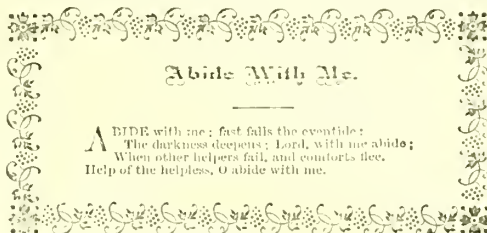
THE BOARD OF TRADE desire us to state that the samples which have been sent home by Mr. Worthington, the Board's Special Commissioner in South America, in illustration of his reports on the condition and prospects of British trade in Chile and Argentina, have now been classified and arranged, and that they may be inspected by anyone interested on application at 43 Parliament Street, S.W., on any day, between the hours of 10 30 a.m. and 5 30 p.m.

PENNY SPECIALITIES.—The Scottish Sugar-coated Pill Company, 5 Washington Street, Glasgow, are makers of a series of carded penny lines which chemists in busy places will find useful. Pills are their leading speciality, but castor oil, toothache-tincture, and other liquids are also put up by them in good style for the penny trade. Amongst their latest things are a tooth-enamel in penny tubes, with directions, and a catarrh sneezing-snuff in the same style. These are both seasonable lines which should sell readily.

MESSRS. C. W. FAULKNER & CO., of 79 Golden Lane, have shown us specimens of their Calendars for 1899, Christmas and New Year's cards, and other artistic productions. The work is very beautifully done, and many of the designs for the calendars and cards are novel and attractive. One calendar is in the form of a lady with a bicycle. By pulling a silk cord the calendar is brought out from between the spokes of the bicycle. Another is furnished with a little pocket for loose papers. Messrs. Faulkner also include new games among their specimens. One is called "Misfitz," the another "Domestic Economy." The latter combines a vast deal of instruction—so much that no child will be tricked into playing it a second time. He turns up a card, for instance, headed "Soap," telling him how it is made and what it sells for. If his card is correct he scores the price quoted, 4d.

FOR THE LANTERN-SEASON.—Messrs. W. Butcher & Son, Blackheath, S.E., send us samples of a series of flexible

hymn-slides which they have designed for the coming lantern-season, and which will be very useful to those who get up lantern-entertainments for Sunday schools and the like. There are five sets of hymns, each numbering a dozen.



Each hymn is printed on uncrinkable celluloid material, and when required it is slipped into a lantern-slide composed of two pieces of thin glass. The combination is thus precisely the same in results as the ordinary photograph, but the hymn-slips are only a sixth of the price, a dozen being etailed at 2s. The style of the slips may be judged from the section of one which is printed above.

ROUSE'S SYNONYMS.—Messrs. Rouse Brothers, 61 Charlotte Street, W., have added to their concentration achievements a "Dictionary of Synonyms for the Use of Chemists, their Assistants and Apprentices." A work of this kind was needed, for since Pritchard and Cole's was published a dozen years ago nothing quite so good has appeared in England. The authors of the Dictionary before us have gone very thoroughly into their subject, and they have produced a neat book of 200 odd pages which will be acceptable to the trade. As far as we have been able to try it, by thinking of out-of-the-way names and looking for them in the Dictionary, we have not failed to find them there, and we have also found many bits of useful information which are not generally given in such works. On a few points we might be prepared to cross literary swords with the authors—*e.g.*, that "magnesia," by retail, is "mag. carb. levis," which is doubtless the custom in some parts of the country, but is by no means universal, and in face of the British Pharmacopœia is a highly questionable synonym. Local usage and personal experience have a good deal to do with one's knowledge of synonyms, and we judge that Messrs. Rouse have wide experience. Amongst the footnotes we find some points in B.P. criticism which are worth attention—*e.g.*, that ethylic alcohol is not indexed, and is used vaguely in some parts; "linum" B.P. is "linseed"—classically it is "flax" or "thread"; "*liquor hamamelis*" is bad—the preparation is not a solution; "sinapis B.P." does not exist commercially, because the description applies to D.S.F. mustard, which is the seeds *minus* integuments and part of the fixed oil; in regard to *pruni virg. cortex*, they support the objection raised in our *DIARY*, page 517. On page 157 "Pharmaceutical Formulas" is quoted in regard to Riga balsam, the authors saying that it "further confuses matters"—we suppose, because Cooley says the balsam is a distillate of the young shoots of *Pinus Cembra*, and then that "the bottoms of oil of juniper are commonly sold for it in the shops." Dorvault, Rennie, and Pereira say it is a turpentine or Carpathian balsam. This shows that these eminent authorities have not seen Riga balsam at all. It occurs in two forms—one colourless, which is used internally as a carminative stimulant; the other coloured, which is used for wounds. We have sold both as imported in the original flat medallion-like flasks; but, in Scotland, compound tincture of benzoin is most commonly sold as "Riga balsam," and Messrs. Rouse so state. It is a substitute, of course, for the true Riga balsam is rarely seen except in the East Coast shipping towns. Messrs. Rouse will send a copy of the Dictionary, post free, to anyone for 1s.

FRENCH IMPORTS OF CHEMICALS.—From January to September, 1898, France imported chemical-products to the value of 19 872,000*fr.*, as against 20 747,000*fr.* for the same period of 1897; exports of similar goods for the above period were 10,643,000*fr.*, as against 10 531,000*fr.* in 1897, thus showing that her exports of chemical-products are increasing and imports decreasing.

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

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Editorial Comments.

The Federation Programme.

WE are not sure that a suggestion of the simultaneous discussion of specified trade subjects was not advanced in these columns before the Federation of Local Associations had been created or even thought of. Possibly even the germ of the organism since developed may be traced to this journal. If that is the case, we have been sufficiently punished journalistically. The Federation programmes of last year and this year have stimulated the production of speeches to such an overwhelming extent that we have to choose between the sacrifice of many other features of our journal or the ruthless abbreviation of pharmaceutical eloquence, the worst feature of which is its unvarying monotony. Last year the most uninteresting of Pharmacy Bills that was ever drafted was submitted for corporate wisdom to dilate upon. There was scarcely the semblance of a discussion as to the merits of the measure from one end of the kingdom to the other. After the first two or three speeches in support of the Bill, and when the little flicker of opposition to it had been snuffed out, there was scarcely the possibility that even the most ingenious speaker or thinker could devise anything new to say on the subject. Surely no phrase had ever before become so wearisome in our annals as that one of "the Consolidation of the Society." This year the prospect seems to be, if anything, even more alarming in respect of monotony. The faithful have been asked to discourse on company pharmacy—a subject capable of strong treatment, but scarcely of a difference of opinion among "legitimate" chemists. It has been with us for nearly twenty years, and one person or another has been talking about it more or less all that time. If only some few speakers

here and there would, merely for the sake of debate, present the best possible case for the accused, some little interest, and it might be some useful instruction, would be imported into the reports. Some appreciation of the difficulties to be overcome would at least be gained. The officers of the Federation themselves might perhaps in future offer a brief summary of the possible arguments on both sides, or at least engage an *advocatus Diaboli* so as to ensure an intelligent comprehension of the points at issue.

We do not for a moment question the effect of iteration. In these advertising days we have all come to realise that the way to create an impression is to repeat some simple phrase thousands and millions of times until it becomes a familiar acquaintance. So with this topic. If we have a governing body which, to put it mildly, needs a little spur to its activity, the course adopted is as good a one as can be suggested. But it is time someone protested against the wild talk which is now being spoken and published. We are aware that it is regarded as a sign of weakness, almost of treason, to suggest moderation. It is heroic to ask for all sorts of impossible things, to denounce your opponents in unmeasured language, and to fling about contemptuous references to the miserable trade in poisons which is all that is now protected. The Blackburn chemists have embodied in a formal resolution their opinion that "limited-liability companies owned by unqualified persons are illegal." Of course they mean that they think it is illegal for such companies to trade as chemists and druggists, but their resolution does not say so, and the carelessness with which it was drafted is characteristic. Perhaps it was the composition of the Chairman of the Blackburn meeting, who declared that the Pharmacy Act "had been so shattered in various ways that it was like a cloth torn in holes. It had been ridden through by a coach-and-four, and the question was whether it should be scattered to the four winds of heaven or they should have a new one." At Preston the editor of a pharmaceutical journal went all the way from London to tell Lancashire chemists that in his opinion the companies were carrying on business illegally. This, we are told, he asserted in his private capacity and not officially. What is the sense of this sort of talk? It may be a matter of curiosity to know what this gentleman's private opinion is, or what Blackburn chemists think on a point of law. But the really essential thing for practical men to face is that this opinion is not that of the highest Law Courts in the land. "We want trade for the trade," says one speaker. "No one here cares two pins for the poison-business." "Something must be done, or a good many chemists will be ruined." These are specimens of Lancashire pharmaceutical oratory just now. The demands implied, it may as well be at once stated, are simply impossible of realisation. The responsible officers of the Pharmaceutical Society are just now exceedingly anxious to say nothing but smooth things, and in the hope of getting new subscribers are professing a sudden desire to accede to all the extravagant proposals put forward. There is not a sane man among them who will risk his reputation by even drafting such a Bill as the Blackburn chemists have in their mind. Nor will five hundred or five thousand new subscribers empower them to secure chemists from competition. Some slight modifications in the Pharmacy Act may be effected after years of effort, but that Act is the work of the Legislature, not of the Pharmaceutical Society, and, even if they wished it, chemists have not the power to "scatter it to the four winds of heaven."

We are not anxious to discourage earnest efforts to improve the condition of the trade. But we have the courage to say what intelligent pharmacists know to be the truth.

A New Rival in Foreign Trade.

THE new imperialism of the American people is not an amorphous thing. The Cuban war has crystallised it, and when the crystallisation is examined we find that it means extension of foreign trade. If any proof of this were wanted, it is to be found in a bulky Red-book which we have received this week from the U.S.A. Bureau of Foreign Commerce. This book, comprising two volumes, is the annual entitled "Commercial Relations," and summarises the annual reports by U.S. Consuls in foreign countries, the full text of these reports forming the bulk of the book. The years 1896-97 are dealt with. The introduction informs us that "the United States is no longer the 'granary of the world' merely. . . . Its sales abroad of manufactured goods have continued to extend with a facility and promptitude of results which have excited the serious attention of countries that for generations had not only controlled their home markets, but had practically monopolised certain lines of trade in other lands. Organised effort to reach foreign markets for our manufactures is as yet in its infancy, [but] the ability of the United States to compete successfully . . . can no longer be seriously questioned." This virtually is the text of the Red-book; it is the doctrine which the Bureau of Foreign Commerce preaches to U.S. Consuls, and these Consuls are asked to tell their compatriots at home what goods are wanted for their markets, who supplies them at present, and what chance Americans have of getting more of their manufactures in. It is exactly this sort of thing that British, German, and other Consuls are also doing, although probably in different ways, the competition between States being as keen as that between individuals. The fact must not be lost sight of that trade is made by individuals, and not by Consuls and Foreign Departments; at least, that is how British trade has been made and kept, but it may be different with countries which come fresh into the field. To them Consuls are agitators who have to work up a case for action, and it is for the manufacturers and merchants to fight the battle. So we find in the Red-book many generalities, furlongs of statistics showing the business which is being done in all countries of the globe, and the specific injunction to American manufacturers to supply the world with boots, bikes, clocks, furniture, labour-saving machinery, and "Yankee notions." There are limitations to the utility of such compilations. We turn to British South Africa, for example, and find that the imports in 1896 amounted to 25,500,000*l.*, of which Great Britain supplied 16,429,705*l.*, and U.S.A. 2,837,210*l.* This comparison naturally excites American curiosity as to the composition of the five shares more of the trade that Great Britain gets, but this the Consul does not tell; instead he states what the U.S. trade is in. The only redeeming feature about the information so given is that the demand for the American goods is increasing. The reports, too, are not sufficiently specific in other respects; thus, the British South African report contains no reference to medicines and druggists' goods, which we have heard are a growing trade between U.S.A. and the Cape. Moreover, U.S. Consuls appear to rely largely upon daily newspapers and statistical journals for information. They get from these interesting reading, but no inside business. Still, the fact must not be overlooked that American Consuls have during the past few years exercised a great influence upon American traders. Various industrial branches have organised their own bureaus of information, while the Philadelphia Museum is doing a commercial educational work which our own Chambers of Commerce are following anxiously. These factors encourage men to move, if they do not actually bring the business. Throughout the Red-book

one fact stands out prominently—viz., that the Britisher is ubiquitous. He is in almost every market of the world, the German is alongside him in many, and the Frenchman has a few spots on the earth where none dispute his commercial sovereignty. But the American stays at home chiefly, which is appropriate to "the greatest country on earth." Except in South America, Great Britain, Japan, and China, there are not many countries where colonies of American merchants stay to overlook their own interests. It is interesting to note that this incitement to keen rivalry finds the two great Anglo-Saxon nations in such friendly relations. Our experience of American competition in chemicals and drugs has shown that friendly relations between the trades of the two countries have really been improved by it. Now we are to meet the American on foreign fields as well as in the home market, and it is desirable that our manufacturers and merchants should prepare themselves for a struggle. Ere long the United States will stop importing alkali and begin to export it; she is rapidly increasing the internal production of quinine sufficient for her own needs, and refined camphor will be one of her exports early in the twentieth century; but she has still much leeway to make up before her chemical manufactures generally become sufficient for internal requirements. As yet her medicinal productions are chiefly proprietary; but her success in pushing a few of these in the British colonies is evidence that when American pharmaceuticals come into competition with ours British wholesale druggists will have to fight for every bit of their export-trade. This may not happen in the present decade, for American pharmaceutical manufactures suffer much from specialisation, and export-medicine is notoriously old-fashioned. But it has to be remembered that the American manufacturer is willing to spend his money in teaching the world that his "Yankee notions" are better than the old-fashioned things; and wherever he succeeds he has the market all to himself. That is our danger.

Future Pharmacopœia Revision.

THE report of the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council, which we published a fortnight ago, is the most important announcement on Pharmacopœia revision which we have had since the British Pharmacopœia was instituted. In presenting the report of the committee over which he presides, Professor D. J. Leech said that the Pharmaceutical Societies should be asked to co-operate from the first, and that, instead of proceeding independently, the Societies and the committee should confer together. This is not the proper time to query what "confer together" may mean, but the proposal seems to concede in a measure what pharmacists have since 1867 endeavoured to obtain—viz., equal rights with medical practitioners in the revision of the British Pharmacopœia. While that cry was predominant, the attitude of the General Medical Council and the Pharmaceutical Societies did not permit, for a time at least, any conference whatever. Pharmacists especially were (and still are) desirous that their position should be recognised by Parliament, and when, some fifteen years ago, Parliamentary petitions for such recognition were promoted by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, a very large number of medical practitioners, including members of the General Medical Council, supported the petition. We have no reason to believe that this feeling has diminished—indeed, Mr. Wells gave expression to it at last week's meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland—but it is generally agreed that the evolutionary method (rather than the revolutionary) should, now that it has had a tentative existence, receive a fair trial, and the

new proposal by the Pharmacopœia Committee shows that the *rapprochement* is becoming more complete. At present we seem to be in the position we were in when the first B.P. was prepared. Mr. Peter Squire, representing pharmacy, had a seat upon the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council, voting like the medical members, while in Dublin and Edinburgh pharmacists were on the committees of the Colleges. As Pharmacopœia revision has been centralised we take it that the pharmacists will meet in London along with the Medical Committee, but such meetings will naturally be rare, since the work will be chiefly of a practical nature. The arrangement promises to give us, if not a better Pharmacopœia, at least a better method of revising it, and the other proposals submitted by the Pharmacopœia Committee—viz., to deal with criticisms as they arise, and to place pharmacology and therapeutics on the same reportorial basis as pharmacy—go far to ensure pharmacopœial perfection. The precedent which the Pharmacopœia Committee has established in submitting the draft of the Indian and Colonial Addendum for criticism is also an excellent step. Whether this method will be followed or not in the parent work it is yet too soon to predict, for the committee's action in the future will largely depend upon the nature of the response which is given to the Addendum draft. The value of this early criticism may be judged by the contribution which we print from Mr. D. S. Kemp, whose long experience in Bombay enables him to speak with authority on Addendum matters. It is exactly this kind of anticipatory criticism and suggestion on the whole Pharmacopœia which the committee are desirous of fostering, and which we believe they may take means of inviting when the first British Pharmacopœia of the twentieth century gets into proof-sheet stage.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

We are now getting within sight of a teaching University of London—i.e., to unite all the teaching bodies, and from them electing faculties in the several branches of learning in which degrees are desired. The serious question now is where the University will be located. There is an almost unanimous feeling that the Imperial Institute will be a proper resting-place for it. The Institute is well situated, has not too much to do, its accommodation is not utilised in quite the best way as it might be, and as a University it could still promote the work which has hitherto been carried on in it.

THE TINCTURE-DRAWBACK.

It will be noticed that the Chemical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce, which has always taken a leading part in negotiations with the Board of Inland Revenue regarding fiscal matters affecting the drug-trade, has now taken action in respect to the drawback on new pharmacopœial preparations. The Drug Club is well represented on the Chamber's drug-committee, and the representations made the Chamber may be taken to represent the views of the wholesale drug-trade. In itself the matter is not one of first-rate importance, but is exactly one of those little things which impede trade, so that it is as well that the disadvantage should be removed promptly, and we have no doubt that the Chamber's representation to the Board of Inland Revenue will effect its purpose.

A CORONER'S LAW.

Dr. Wynn Westcott, the Coroner for North-East London, owes an apology to Mr. John Hill, chemist, not now on the register, of 92 St. John's Road, Haggerston. By what right did Dr. Wynn Westcott advise his jury that Mr. Hill had committed any breach of "the laws of the General Medical Council," by supplying a little bicarbonate of soda in

chloroform-water? As a medical man himself, and as a person exercising quasi-judicial functions, Dr. Westcott must know that the General Medical Council cannot make laws for chemists or for anybody else. Dr. Westcott may have some curious fancies as to what the law should be, but we are not interested in them. He is not a legislator but an administrator of the law, and it is seriously objectionable when men in his position fling about charges injuriously affecting other people on no more basis than their own imagination.

MEDICAL SCALES OF PASSENGER-SHIPS.

We understand that the Board of Trade is revising the medical scales of passenger-ships, and has asked the Royal College of Physicians of London to appoint a committee to assist in the revision. Dr. Nestor Tirard and Dr. Sidney Phillips have accordingly been appointed to represent the College. It will have been observed from our report of last week's Pharmaceutical Council meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society has also been asked to appoint a representative to take part in the revision. This is, we believe, the first occasion for many years in which outside assistance has been asked. The medical scale contains some rather antiquated remedies, and we presume that the object of requiring outside assistance is to bring the scale thoroughly up to date.

MOND'S NICKEL PROCESS.

We have on several occasions mentioned the process devised by Dr. Ludwig Mond for the extraction of nickel from its ores by passing carbon monoxide over the material, whereby the ore is carried off in a gaseous form (nickel carbonyl), and is subsequently freed by heating the gas to a higher temperature. Professor Roberts-Austen has recently dealt with the matter in a paper read to the Institute of Civil Engineers, where he stated that the process is carried out on a manufacturing scale at Smethwick, near Birmingham. Apart from the application of a new chemical discovery to a metallurgical process, the process interests pharmacists in that sulphate of copper is obtained as a by-product in the preparation of the ore for gaseous treatment.

The British Pharmacopœia, 1898.

Indian and Colonial Addendum.

NOTES BY D. S. KEMP, PH.C., F.C.S.

OF the bulk of the Indian drugs recommended for the Indian and Colonial Addendum I have little personal knowledge, as they rarely come under the notice of European pharmacists in that country. The latter circumstance should, of course, be no consideration, in view of the authoritative recommendation of the committee.

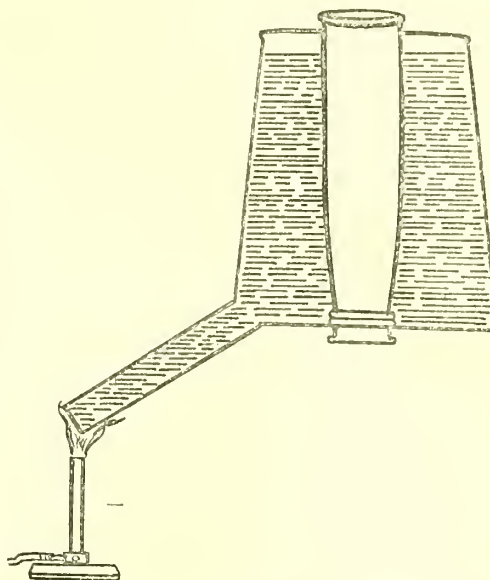
Acaciæ Gummi and *Gummi Indicum*.—It is very inconvenient to have two official varieties of soluble gum, and it will be difficult to secure general compliance with the Pharmacopœia in such a case; but gummi indicum is too important to be left out. In the case of acaciæ gummi a certain latitude should be allowed as to its sources, but with limits of chemical reaction and physical characters a good selection should be secured.

Andrographis.—I have never met with *A. paniculata* (Kiryat) except in the green condition in which it is offered in the markets—the quadrangular-stemmed herb. It is very valuable, but of its galenic use I have no experience.

Aurantii Cortex Indicus.—The rind of the sweet orange dried, as in Indian commerce, is rich in colouring-matter but poor in bitter. Its recognition in the Pharmacopœia would bring into commerce a more carefully dried drug, equal for flavouring-purposes to that of the home market.

Belo Fructus.—There should be no doubt as to the propriety of recognising this drug. It is hard and rather intractable in decoction, although that is at present its best form. A good fluid extract (aqueous) could be made by

percolation in a hot-jacketed percolator, a simple apparatus made on the principle of the hot funnel, such as the annexed sketch.



This is a section of the water-bath percolator. The outer and inner vessels are of copper, the latter tinned inside and having soldered to it a brass screw fitting another in the bottom of the outer vessel, with a rubber washer between. The apparatus may be placed on a box turned up side or end ways with a hole in it, and the percolate may be easily protected from fire. Between 160° and 170° F. is the usual temperature maintained. The heating-tube is double, like a U, so that a current of water may pass through it constantly. The arms of the tube are on a level (not so slanted as in the figure), to assist the current. A bent piece of tinplate hung on the arm, above the flame, accelerates the heating.

Betel.—No preparation can ever supersede the picked fresh leaves in popular use. As a carminative I can only suggest a strong distilled spirit, using an alcoholic solution of calcium chloride to macerate with the bruised leaves before distillation so as to raise the boiling-point. This would obtain much favour with Native patients.

Embellicæ Ribes.—The seeds are easily swallowed in cachets, and act as an anthelmintic better in the crude than in any other form.

Ispaghula.—This drug should certainly be recognised. The seeds are given in their crude state (well cleaned) after a few hours' maceration in water, using just water enough to cover them. I have seen this save life in the last stages of dysentery.

Myrobalans are not equal to oak-galls in amount of gallo-tannic acid, weight for weight, but deserve recognition on account of their abundance, and because their tincture and decoction are said to be as useful as those of the official drug.

Oleum Ajowan.—The distilled water known as omni-water is popular as a carminative like dill-water.

Oleum Arachidis and *Oleum Sesami* are found extensively in Native commerce, and ought by every consideration of policy and justice to have recognition. Their use should be allowed in place of olive oil, the cost of which is prohibitive to the masses in India. The recognition of the arachis and sesame oils in the Pharmacopœia would gradually bring into the market better and more carefully prepared products.

Olea Graminum.—At least two of these oils should be recognised—*Andropogon Schœnanthus* and *A. citratus*—both large articles of commerce and in medicinal use; and they should be strictly characterised. There is no adequate reason why cajuput oil, a Dutch colonial product, should be given preference over these British-Indian oils, which, both in chemical composition and medicinal properties, are closely allied to it.

Legal Reports.

The Pharmacy Act.

AT Stonehouse County Court on December 12, the Pharmaceutical Society brought an action to recover from Louis J. Fowler, 31 Albert Road, Morice Town, three penalties of 5*l.* each in respect of three infringements of the Pharmacy Act, 1868—keeping open shop for retailing poisons—and with using the name of chemist.

Mr. Vaughan Williams, for the Society, said the defendant, who was not on the register of chemists and druggists, had bought the business from P. A. Kelly, a properly qualified chemist, and issued a handbill stating he had removed his practice from 27 to 31 Albert Road, where he might be consulted daily, and that he had taken J. T. Livesey, chemist and druggist, of Manchester, as a partner, under whose management the business of chemist and druggist would be carried on. Defendant got an assignment of the lease and became occupier of the premises, and was, in fact, the man whose business was carried on there. Sergeant Down, a detective of Devonport, on September 23, visited the shop and asked for oxalic acid, and was supplied by Mr. Livesey, who, as far as he knew, was a qualified chemist. On September 30, Sergeant Down obtained chlorodyne from Mr. Livesey. On the first purchase there was a label with the words, "Kelly, dispensing chemist," and on the second a label bearing the words, "Livesey & Co., chemists." It made no difference if a person took an assumed name. Over the shop was fixed "Livesey & Co., chemists, Albert Road Drug-stores." A limited company might carry on such a business, and might sell poisons through a qualified assistant, but that did not apply to a partnership.

Philip Alfred Kelly, a registered chemist, said he sold his business to defendant for 170*l.* In cross-examination he said he did not know whether defendant wanted to carry on the business of a dentist. Defendant was not a registered dentist, but extracted teeth. Witness inferred that defendant did not want to carry on the business of a chemist, as he wanted to dispose of the stock, and witness told him if there were a duly qualified man as proprietor he could dispose of the stock. It was thoroughly understood the successor would be the proprietor of the business.

Mr. Vaughan Williams submitted that if defendant was misled by Mr. Kelly that would not exonerate him.

Mr. Rundle, for the defence, admitted that defendant was not a druggist, and when he desired to acquire the premises as a dental-surgeon Mr. Kelly told him he did not intend to give up the business unless the stock was bought. What was over the door showed the public there was a duly qualified chemist to dispense drugs, and the public had not been injured in the slightest degree.

His Honour said Mr. Rundle need not trouble about the paragraph alleging the use of the name of "chemist." Mr. Williams submitted the label was sufficient proof of that paragraph. His Honour: It is "Livesey." Mr. Williams: If he takes an assumed name it makes the offence worse. His Honour: I am against you on that paragraph. Mr. Rundle submitted the cases decided showed that defendant was not liable to penalties. His Honour: The difficulty is this circular, where he says Livesey is a partner.

Mr. Williams contended the law was not complied with through Livesey, as a partner, being a proprietor. If this were legalised, the effect of the Act would be destroyed, as anyone could employ a qualified person and interfere at any time.

J. T. Livesey, a qualified chemist, said he entered into an arrangement with the defendant that he should look after the business. He took the stock and sold for a small salary and on commission. He took sole control of the stock; defendant took no part in the business, and never served a customer. Cross-examined: Witness was Livesey and defendant the Co. Defendant could not get into the shop unless he (witness) was there. Defendant might have sold a pennyworth of antibilious pills or of Epsom salts. Articles of partnership were drawn up.

Mr. Williams said he had called for the articles of partnership. If the defendant carried on the business the Act would be rendered nugatory if he could put another name and the word "chemist" over the shop.

His Honour said there must be judgment for plaintiffs. Very great mischief was done by unqualified persons selling poisons, and it was the duty of the Society to protect the public and bring actions of this kind. He was satisfied in this case no real harm was done. It was obvious defendant knew from the outset he could not carry on the business, and did not intend to carry it on, and there was no reason to doubt Mr. Livesey's statement that he had sole control of the drugs and chemist department. But, however *bona fide* his intentions, he had brought himself within the Act, and, however much he (his Honour) might be of opinion that no harm had been done, there must be judgment for plaintiff as to the first two penalties. He did not think defendant had rendered himself liable to the penalty for exhibiting the name of "chemist."

On the application of Mr. Williams, his Honour certified for counsel's costs.

Restraining the Use of Sun-blinds.

A CURIOUS action was decided by Mr. Justice Kekewich in the Chancery Division on Tuesday. It was brought by the Gresham Life Assurance Society, who own a building in Poultry, E.C., the lower part of which is partly let off in shops. One of these shops is occupied, under an assigned lease, by a jeweller named Ranger. The lease contains the usual covenant that the defendant would not carry on business so as to cause annoyance or discomfort to neighbouring tenants. The defendant has been in the habit of lighting his window all day with electric lamps, and keeping the sun-blind continuously down, so as to exclude daylight and provide a reflection. The plaintiffs and their tenants did not object to the use of the blind for its legitimate purpose of screening excessive heat or light, but they complained that the defendant's use of the blind made it practically a permanent erection. Evidence of occupiers of shops adjoining was called to show that this permanent blind was an annoyance and disadvantage to them in their business.

The defendant said the use of electric lamps and a blind in daytime was common among jewellers all over London, and he alleged that the result of his undertaking, pending the trial, not to use the side flaps had almost ruined the business. His counsel said the blind was part of the demise to the defendant by the plaintiffs, and he undertook to take care of it and keep it in repair, and he submitted that it was impossible to say that defendant must not use it save when the Gresham Society or somebody else thought it reasonable that he should do so. It was demised to be used as a blind, and it was so being used.

Mr. Justice Kekewich, however, held that annoyance and injury to the neighbours had been proved, and he granted an injunction, providing, however, that the defendant might use this blind on bright sunny days as his neighbours did, or on a day of fog, when a trader might reasonably claim to obtain the full advantage of his use of artificial light.

The Sale of a Chemist's Business.

IN the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, on Tuesday, Mr. Justice Lawrance and a common jury heard evidence in the action brought by Mr. H. J. Cooke, veterinary surgeon, Southsea, to recover damages from Mr. F. Chitty, in respect to the sale by him of a chemist's and druggist's business, situate in the High Street, Chichester. Plaintiff alleges that he was induced to purchase this undertaking on false representations of the defendant. Defendant denied the allegations, and brought a counter-claim for a sum of money which he alleged was still owing to him by the plaintiff on the transaction. Mr. Emanuel appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Day for the defendant.

Plaintiff stated that he saw the business advertised in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. It was represented as bringing in a turnover of 300*l.* a year gross. Plaintiff saw the defendant, who then told him the turnover was 150*l.* net. The drugs and stock were good and valuable. On these representations plaintiff bought the business. However, he soon found that the takings were small and the profits *nil*. He therefore gave the business up, and repudiated his bargain.

Defendant urged that the plaintiff had not been induced to buy the concern by any misrepresentations on his part. Plaintiff had the opportunity of seeing what sort of a business it was before he bought it. He also had the option of examining the books, which he declined. Defendant said he sold the business because he had not time to look after it owing to his mineral-water business. The hearing was at this stage adjourned until Wednesday, when further evidence was called.

Mr. Stevens, an assistant in the shop while the negotiations were going on, said that plaintiff was the proprietor of certain veterinary medicines, and told witness it would be a more convenient centre for his business, as his customers lived nearer to Chichester than to Portsmouth. He did not care about the chemist's retail business. He relied on his own business, and the custom it would bring to the shop. It took witness three weeks to make a valuation of the shop. He took out all the useless stuff and had it buried in the garden. The remaining stock, which was in good condition, was worth 115*l.* and the shop-fittings another 40*l.* or 50*l.* He offered plaintiff the opportunity of going through the stock in order that he might check the figures. Plaintiff, however, declined, saying he was ready to trust the witness's valuation. Cross-examined: At the time he was engaged at the defendant's the business brought in from 3*l.* to 4*l.* a week. But business had been better before he went there, judging from the books. This concluded the case.

Counsel having addressed the jury, his Lordship summed up. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant. Mr. Day applied for judgment for defendant on the counter-claim also, which was allowed.

Storage of Carbide of Calcium.

At Hull Police Court, on December 7, before Mr. E. C. Twiss, Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. W. L. Harrison, of Dock Street, was summoned for storing 2 cwt. of carbide of calcium without a licence. The defence raised was to the effect that a petroleum-licence which the defendant held covered carbide of calcium, and the Stipendiary, taking that view, dismissed the case.

Beecham v. Flintoff.

THIS was an action by which the plaintiff sought perpetual injunction to restrain the defendant from selling as Beecham's pills not manufactured by the plaintiff, damages, and costs. In default of appearance on behalf of the defendant, Mr. Martelli, for the plaintiff, moved for judgment on Saturday last, before Mr. Justice Stirling in the Chancery Division. His Lordship granted perpetual injunction, with costs. The plaintiff waived his claim for damages.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

LIME-WATER.

At the Thames Police Court on December 8, Evan Phillips, pharmaceutical chemist, 214 Devon's Road, Bromley, was summoned for selling lime-water deficient in lime. For the prosecution, Mr. Young said that on December 4 an inspector purchased a pint of lime-water from defendant, which was found to be deficient in lime to the extent of 18 per cent., and the preparation had been made with ordinary water instead of distilled water. The defendant, who pleaded guilty, said the lime-water was supplied in error during his absence. Mr. Young remarked that the lime-water was supplied by a lad of 15, and it was a wonder that more serious mistakes did not occur. Mr. Dickinson advised the defendant to have a duly qualified assistant, and imposed a penalty of 10*s.* and 23*s.* costs.

Chemist's Insurance-policies.

In the Court of Session, on December 14, Lord Kincairney gave judgment in an action by Mrs. M. S. Macpherson, or Mackay, widow of Alexander Mackay, late a chemist in Oban, against Alexander Macarthur, bank-agent and

solicitor, Oban. Pursuer sought reduction of two deeds purporting to assign to the defender a policy of insurance with the Standard Life Assurance Company for 500*l.* on the joint lives of pursuer and her husband, and a policy of insurance with the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company for 100*l.* on the life of Alexander Mackay. Pursuer said her husband died in December, 1896. At the time of their marriage he had a chemist's business in Oban, and, owing to the condition of her husband's health, they took out a policy of insurance on their joint lives. In 1891 her husband opened a branch of his business in Salen, Mull. In 1894 her husband's affairs became involved, and the defender, his law agent, it was alleged, suggested that he would advance him money for the purpose of paying off an overdraft at the bank on the security of the two policies, the amount he advanced being 60*l.* Pursuer said she knew nothing about this till she was told by her husband that she would be asked to sign a paper assigning the policies in security for the advance, but that he could pay back the money at any time and get back the policies. She signed the deed for the 500*l.* policy, but it was not read over to her, nor were its terms explained. She was not aware that the document was an absolute assignation of the policy, and she and her husband were under the belief that both assignations were in security for the sum advanced. She only became aware after her husband's death that the policies were defender's property. She pleaded that as the assignations had been granted in ignorance of their contents a decree of reduction should be pronounced. Lord Kincairney found for the defender, with expenses.

County Court Cases.

RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ADVERTISEMENTS.

At the Exeter County Court last week Mrs. S. Pepper, of Tiverton, sued Mr. C. H. Sanders, dentist, of Exeter, for the recovery of fifteen guineas for alleged breach of warranty in supplying plaintiff with a set of false teeth. Judge Woodfall said it was evident from the evidence that the defendant had not supplied a set of teeth "so perfectly akin to nature and life-like as to defy detection," as his advertisement stated. There would be judgment for plaintiff for 10*l.* 10*s.*, with costs.

THE CHEMIST'S LAMP.

MR. HANNAFORD, chemist, Watford, last week sued Mr. Doe, a lamp-fitter, for 3*l.* 15*s.* for damages to a lamp which he alleged were caused by the negligence of defendant's servant. The lamp was originally put up in 1892, and in December, 1897, the plaintiff entrusted it to defendant to fit it with incandescent burners. The defendant's fitter put a cup-and-ball joint on so that it would twist round. The plaintiff's witnesses said this should not have been done. It was a fixed lamp with the chemist's name on. They said this was why the lamp broke down. The defendant said it came down in a hurricane of wind. The Judge found for the plaintiff.

A MONTH OR A WEEK'S NOTICE — "A CUSTOM OF THE TRADE."

At the Clerkenwell County Court, on Wednesday, before Judge Edge, Q.C., Mr. Charles Ross, chemist, of Fulham Road, sued his late employer, Mr. Frederick John Foot, chemist, trading as Lane & Foot at 6 and 195 Seven Sisters Road, Holloway, to recover 12*l.*, being a month's wages in lieu of notice. Mr. Bradshaw appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Stallard, barrister, for the defendant.

Plaintiff said that he entered defendant's employ on May 16 this year, and remained in his employ till the end of October without complaint. Witness was engaged as manager of the branch, 195 Seven Sisters Road, at 3*l.* a week, but toward the end of October he was taken ill, and it became necessary to go into a hospital to undergo an operation. Plaintiff therefore wrote on October 28 to the defendant giving him a month's notice, in accordance with the terms of his engagement, which the defendant accepted. On October 31, however, the defendant

came to the shop and accused him of writing abusive letters to him, and ordered him to leave at once. Defendant offered him 3*l.*, his wages due, and 3*l.* as one week in lieu of notice, but plaintiff refused to accept the latter, claiming the value of a month's notice.

Mr. Stallard: What is the custom of the trade as to notice?

His Honour: Oh, the custom of the trade is nothing. A manager surely would get a month.

Mr. Stallard: In your trade is there not an inside manager and an outside manager?

His Honour: What does that mean?

Mr. Stallard: An inside manager resides on the premises and an outside manager does not. Is that not so?

Plaintiff: I never heard of it.

Mr. Stallard: Well, I put to you a manager that resides on the premises is entitled to a month's notice, whilst a manager that does not reside on the premises is only entitled to a week's notice.

Plaintiff: I never heard of such a thing. I expected and gave a month's notice.

Mr. Stallard: Did you specify a month? Are you sure?

Plaintiff: Most decidedly.

Mr. Stallard: Were you not abusive on the 31st, and so got discharged?

Plaintiff: No.

Defendant said that he never accepted any such arrangement as a month's notice, and on the 31st, as plaintiff was abusive, he was discharged, and offered the proper wages in lieu of notice.

In giving judgment, his Honour said he could hardly believe that any custom of the trade could exist which allowed a qualified-chemist manager to be discharged at a week's notice, and judgment would be for the plaintiff, with costs.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re CHARLES COOK, 93 Manor Lane, Shipley, Grocer and Dealer in Drugs.

AT his public examination last week this debtor said he commenced business at 30 Birkland's Road, Shipley, in June, 1894, with 150*l.* capital. He was not successful, and at the end of 1896 removed to 93 Manor Lane. At that time he was, he believed, solvent. Since the removal his turnover had never exceeded 6*l.* or 7*l.* a week; latterly it had sunk to about 3*l.*, and, as the total profit was only about 5 per cent., he had during the last two years steadily gone from bad to worse. The examination was closed.

Re ALFRED LUSSAN, formerly trading as "Rew & Co." Regent Street, Chemist.

AT the London Bankruptcy Court, on December 9, a sitting was held in the case of this debtor, who had, in the name of Baker, been adjudged bankrupt in the High Court on three previous occasions—viz., in 1886, after having traded as a chemist under the style of "Rew & Co."; in 1890, when a partner in a wine-business, then carried on at Piccadilly Circus; and in 1893, when trading at Shaftesbury Avenue under the style of "The United Kingdom Wine Company." The debtor stated, in reply to the Assistant-Receiver, that he had changed his name at the request of his wife, on their marriage in 1896. He was now undischarged in respect of his third bankruptcy. The examination was closed.

Re HENRY HAYWARD, Fowey, Cornwall, Chemist and Druggist.

THE public examination of this bankrupt was held at the Truro Bankruptcy Court on December 10, before Mr. Registrar Chilcott. Mr. Horace Dobell appeared on behalf of the bankrupt, who repeated the statement of affairs as given at the statutory meeting of creditors (see *C. & D.*, November 26, page 862). There being no opposition, and bankrupt having made the statutory declarations and handed over all his estate and effects to the trustee, he was allowed to pass.

Re JOHN JOSEPH LAWS, 14 Greyhound Lane, Streatham Common, Chemist and Druggist.

THIS bankrupt attended at the Wandsworth Bankruptcy Court on December 8 for his adjourned public examination. The debtor having signed the transcript of the notes of the evidence he gave at the previous sitting, and made the statutory declaration of full disclosure, was allowed to pass his public examination.

Re WM. STEWARD ADAMSON, High Street, Burford, Chemist and Druggist.

THE statement of accounts in this failure, issued by the Official Receiver of the Oxford Bankruptcy Court, shows gross liabilities 569*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* (of which 446*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* is expected to rank against the estate for dividend), and assets 299*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

Re FRANCIS TUCKER, 110 Falcon Road, Battersea, Chemist.

THE public examination of this debtor was on Mr. Registrar Linklater's list at last Tuesday's sitting of the London Bankruptcy Court. The Official Receiver reported that the bankrupt had not surrendered under the proceedings, and he thought no good purpose would be served by a further adjournment. The bankrupt's name was called in the ordinary way, and, there being no response, his Honour adjourned the examination *sine die*.

Re J. T. TRENCH, Dublin.

IN the Dublin Bankruptcy Court, on December 9, before Judge Boyd, the case of J. Townsend Trench, proprietor of a medicine for curing epileptic fits, was gone into. Mr. John J. Bernard, pharmaceutical chemist, of Clare Street, Dublin, gave evidence. He said that he had had an arrangement to supply the bankrupt with drugs for a number of years. He looked for a profit of 10 to 15 per cent on these. The bankrupt told him on December 23, 1897, that he had been trying in London to form a company for the purchase of his medicine, but that it had not gone through. Witness did not then know that Trench was in pecuniary difficulties. On that date he (witness) had an interview with Mr. Hardman, solicitor, about the bankrupt's affairs, and understood that when the business of the bankrupt was taken over by a syndicate to which it had been sold, he (Mr. Bernard) was to continue to supply drugs as he had done to Mr. Trench. He knew then that Mr. Trench could not meet his debts. It was then agreed that a company should be formed, and that as the debts amounted to 8,300*l.*, that should be the amount of the purchase-money. In purchase following it was found that the liabilities had increased to 9,500*l.*, and it was agreed to increase the purchase-money to that amount. In February witness got 1,200*l.* from Mr. Hardman to pay debts. According to the agreement of December 23 the medical business was to be taken over by the syndicate or company on January 1. He did not then know that at least 3,500*l.* of the 9,500*l.* was a private debt. On March 2, 1898, Mr. Hardman handed a cheque for 6,000*l.* to Mr. Trench, who endorsed it and handed it to witness, saying, "Fire away now, Bernard; pay the creditors."

"How did you dispose of the amount?"—"A cheque for 3,500*l.* was drawn in favour of Mr. Hardman himself, and five other cheques, representing 500*l.*, were drawn and handed to Mr. Trench. I thought that would be about the amount I would have left when I should have discharged all the liabilities. I got about 300*l.* to pay debts due to myself." He had not heard of the bankruptcy proceedings until after the arrangement of December 23, 1897.

Mr. Hardman, solicitor, also gave evidence, and admitted that he got cash or security for what he advanced to the bankrupt. He was willing that the amount of his mortgage should be paid exclusively out of the medical business.

Re WILLIAM JOSEPH WILSON, Moseley Road, Birmingham, Chemist's Manager.

THE creditors met at the office of the Birmingham Official Receiver on December 14. The liabilities are 189*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*; assets, 19*l.* 18*s.* 11*d.* The Official Receiver, in his observa-

tions, stated that the bankrupt commenced business in 1881 as a chemist at Oxford, with capital amounting to 50*l*. In the following year he made a private arrangement with his creditors, and paid a composition of 5*s*. in the pound. He continued trading until February 6, 1893, when he filed his petition, with liabilities amounting to 1,158*l*. 6*s*. 11*d*., and assets 617*l*. 4*s*. 11*d*. A dividend of 10*s*. in the pound was paid.

In 1894 he obtained a situation as a chemist's manager in Birmingham. In 1895, being out of a situation for seven months, he fell into arrears, and began borrowing at heavy interest, the amount now due being 45*l*. From January to July of the present year he was out of employment, and at present he was in a situation which yielded a salary of 130*l*. per annum. In answer to the Official Receiver (Mr. Luke J. Sharp), bankrupt said that a debt of 11*l*., which had been owing since 1893, was the balance of the price of a bicycle. The Official Receiver suggested that it was not necessary to buy a bicycle when he could not pay for it, and commented on one or two other items, adding that it was not a creditable failure. Being a summary case the Official Receiver falls to be appointed trustee. The following are the principal creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Birmingham Deposit Bank ...	30	0	0
Colcomb, M., King's Heath ...	3	0	0
Cole, William (Limited) ...	6	0	0
Collier, John, Oxford ...	11	0	0
Cooper, G. R., Oxford ...	8	10	0
Dean, A. R. (Limited), Birmingham ...	2	16	0
Excelsior Money Society ...	15	15	0
Hayles, Messrs., Moseley, Birmingham ...	15	0	0
Holder, Sir J. C., Birmingham ...	1	11	0
Hopkins, Misses, Moseley ...	1	14	0
Hull, W. H., Birmingham ...	12	4	2
Hytch, E. F., Birmingham ...	7	10	0
Jones, Charles, Birmingham ...	45	0	0
Sankey, William, Birmingham ...	9	0	0
Wheeler, S., Smethwick ...	20	0	0

Gazette.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

Cresswell, F. R., Cresswell, E. J. J., Cresswell, A. G., and Schmitz, T. C., under the style of Cresswell Brothers & Schmitz, Red Lion Square, W.C., sponge-merchants; so far as regards F. R. Cresswell.

Holmes, F., and Holmes, H. A., under the style of Frank & Harry Holmes, Manchester, physicians and surgeons.

Swete, E. H., and Ross, R. St. G., under the style of Swete & Ross, Worcester, analytical and consulting chemists.

Deed of Arrangement.

Jones, John Lewis, 344 Mill Street, and 37 Monroe Street, Liverpool, chemist and druggist. Trustee, John E. D. Parker, 26 North John Street, Liverpool, chartered accountant. Dated, December 6; filed, December 10. Liabilities unsecured, 93*l*. 4*s*. 5*d*.; estimated net assets, 150*l*. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool ..	31	0	0
Thompson, J. (Limited), Liverpool ..	27	0	0

New Companies & Company News.

HEYSE (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l*., in 5*l*. shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with Rudolph Heyse, and to manufacture, sell and deal in soft and hard soap, soap-powder, cleaning and polishing paste, granulated soda, &c.

SCOTT'S MINERAL-WATER COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 600*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of a mineral-water manufacturer carried on by Joseph Scott, at Scarborough, Yorks. Registered office, 33 Huntriss Row, Scarborough.

WILLIAM CARR & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 16,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To adopt an agreement with William Carr, confectioner, of Gateshead, and to carry on the business of confectioners, drysalters, chemists, druggists, oil and colour men, &c. The first directors are Wm. Carr, Robert Scope, and John T. Scott.

EXCELSIOR (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of aerated and mineral water manufacturers carried on by Wm. H. Livesey and Jas. H. Cocker, at Wall Street, Blackburn. The first directors are L. Margerison, J. Smith, W. Cross, J. T. Eastham and W. Livesey. Registered office, Wall Street, Blackburn.

PARKER GRAY & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 10,000*l*., in 10*l*. shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Parker Gray, at Northampton, as "Parker Gray & Co.," and to carry on the business of tallow chandlers and melters, fellmongers, oil-refiners, glycerin-distillers, soap and candle makers, dye and colour manufacturers, chemists, druggists, &c. Parker Gray is the sole director.

ARTHUR HOLDEN & SONS (LIMITED).—Capital 20,000*l*., in 10*l*. shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by Arthur Holden, at several places in Birmingham, and to carry on the business of paint, varnish and colour manufacturers and merchants, oil and colour men, gum-merchants, chemists, druggists, &c. Arthur Holden is the governing director. Qualification, 5,000*l*. Remuneration, 500*l*. per annum. Registered office, 218 and 219 Bradford Street, Birmingham.

ORAIN COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 100*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of wholesale druggists, chemists, and makers of and dealers in proprietary articles of all kinds. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—T. W. Doran, 84 Winston Road, Green Lanes, N., clerk; G. Linder, 97 Maysoule Road, New Wandsworth, S.W., clerk; A. Castle, 33 Cuthbert Road, Walthamstow, clerk; J. Lawton, 85 Farrant Avenue, Wood Green, N., gentleman; S. Chanter, 56 Pascoe Road, Lewisham, S.E., gentleman; Wm. Stovell, 141 Hartington Road, South Lambeth, gentleman; Wm. Maynard, 30 Maury Road, Stoke Newington, N., clerk. Registered without articles of association.

GRIMSHAW DRUG AND DENTAL COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l*., in 1*l*. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of wholesale and retail chemists, apothecaries, druggists' sundriesmen, drysalters, medical herbalists, dentists, mineral-water manufacturers, patent-medicine vendors, &c. The first subscribers (each with 10 shares) are:—Wm. H. Grimshaw, 132 Darwen Street, Blackburn, chemist and druggist; Mrs. Wm. H. Grimshaw, 34 Palmer Street, Blackburn; Isaac Widdup, artificial-teeth maker, and Mrs. Charlotte Widdup, 171 Preston Road, Blackburn; James M. Widdup, Eldon Street, Blackburn, timber merchant; Miss Elizabeth G. Buckley, 34 Palmer Street, Blackburn; John Haworth, 31 Victoria Street, Blackburn, solicitor. The first directors are William H. Grimshaw and Isaac Widdup. Qualification, 50*l*. Registered office, 132 Darwen Street, Blackburn.

THE CHEMISCHE FABRIK VON DR. REMY IN WORMS has been transformed into a joint-stock company, with a capital of 3,000,000*m*.

THE PROPOSED IDRIS-CAMWAL COMBINE.—The *Financial News* is interesting itself in this proposal, and in last Saturday's issue published a list of the principal shareholders in both companies. In the Camwal company it appears that Mr. H. Davenport (the chairman) holds 10,046 shares, while Mr. J. T. Davenport (his father) owns 2,036. Mr. H. T. Butler (the secretary) is registered with 1,000 shares, and the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain figures for 100. In the Idris Company, Mr. T. H. W. Idris (the chairman) is credited with 8,461 preference shares, 17,482 ordinary shares, and 11,724 founders' shares. Mrs. Idris owns altogether 6,412 shares and Messrs. W. H. W. Idris and W. T. W. Idris hold 1,050 each.

HOMOEPA.—The directors have only just issued their report and balance sheet for the year ending March 31 last! The directors "regret that the figures disclosed therein do not show the profit which, at the date of the

incorporation of the company, the directors were justified in believing the business would earn." They promise at the annual meeting to place before the shareholders the present position and the future policy of the company. The accounts show sales during the year amounting to 19,038*l.*, and stock in hand valued at 4,738*l.* The cost of production, materials, stamps, and wages amounted to 11,384*l.*, leaving a gross profit of 10,013*l.* But salaries and expenses generally, including a portion only of the preliminary expenses and only 4,000*l.* out of 13,042*l.* spent in advertising (the 9,042*l.* being held in suspense), leave only 430*l.* as apparent profit. The accountants' certificate which was given on the prospectus when the company was floated stated that for the first three months of 1897 the net profits (which were to be included in the purchase) amounted to 3,107*l.* There is great dissatisfaction, and an opposition to the present Board is being organised.

A. J. WHITE (LIMITED).—An action was tried on December 9, in the Chancery Division, in respect to the transfer of 47,500 fully-paid ordinary shares and 100,000 preference shares of 1*l.* each. Mr. Arthur Wellington Whack asked that the register of shareholders should be rectified, so that he should be entered as the holder of these shares in place of the late Mr. Alfred Judson White, of New York, who died in September last. Mr. Whack claims to have acquired the shares from Mr. Raymond Sandford White, son of Mr. A. J. White, who transferred them under a power of attorney, but the Crown had interposed and claimed estate-duty in respect of the property, alleging that the transfer was not *bona-fide* transfer for value, and that as it was dated September 19 (four days before Mr. A. J. White's death), the duty must be paid. Mr. Whack had paid 20,000*l.* into Court to satisfy any possible claim the Crown might have, and on that the Crown stood aside. But the company objected to make the transfer until letters of administration had been taken out. Mr. Justice Kekewich said they were well advised in this, and he ordered that the application should stand over until letters of administration had been taken out in this country.

CAMWAL.—The directors, in their report for the year ending September 30, 1898, say: "Considering the very unfavourable weather experienced from the beginning of the past summer up to August, we think we have every reason to congratulate the shareholders on the results shown in this the twentieth annual balance sheet, which we now submit. Manchester shows a fair profit on the fifteen months' trading, and we have reason to believe that future years will give much better results. On the nine months' trading Birmingham shows a small loss, but we hope and expect to see a good balance at the other side next year. The Sanitary Institution, at their congress held last October in Birmingham, awarded us a medal for the 'Camwal' waters in syphons and bottles, which we may take as an assurance that the purity and general excellence of the waters sent out by our new branch are of the highest. To meet the demands from our two new factories, we last February issued 5,000*l.* 5-per-cent. debentures, being the balance of the issue of 25,000*l.* We also raised temporary loans amounting to 5,500*l.* In accordance with an arrangement made some years since with our managers, we have allotted to them, in consideration of their services, 1,000 shares at par. The 50*l.* which you so kindly voted to the directors at the last meeting has been handed to the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society. There has been during the past year an increase of 287 shareholders (after deducting the number of those who sold their shares), making the total number of members 4,555." The profit-and-loss account shows a gross profit of 17,309*l.* 4*s.* 9*d.* From this all the working-expenses, such as rents, management-costs, advertising-expenses, directors' fees, law-expenses, interest on debentures, have to be deducted. The result is a net balance of 6,054*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* It is proposed to pay out of this a dividend of 10 per cent. with 2½-per-cent. bonus, absorbing 5,100*l.*, leaving 954*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.* out of which to pay a bonus to employés, and to carry forward the balance to next year. The net profit last year was 5,923*l.*, and a similar dividend was paid.

Marriage.

GORDON—BRYDON.—At the Imperial Hotel, Edinburgh, on December 8, by the Rev. Dr. Hastings, Palmerston Place U.P. Church, John Alexander Gordon, chemist, Stirling, to Marion Alexander or Brydon, daughter of John Alexander, Burnside, Skirling Biggar.

Deaths.

BOSISTO.—From Melbourne we learn of the death of the veteran pharmacist Mr. Joseph Bosisto, C.M.G., in his 76th year. Mr. Bosisto was a Yorkshireman, and, as a youth, intended to be a medical practitioner. With that end in view he became a student in the Leeds School of Medicine, and afterwards came to London to complete his studies. This was in the forties. While here he entered the School of Pharmacy, Bloomsbury Square, and from that time stuck to pharmacy. Afterwards he spoke with gratitude of the knowledge which the Pharmaceutical Society had imparted to him, and which enabled him to make those botanical investigations with which his name is associated. Mr. Bosisto emigrated to Australia fifty years ago, and opened a pharmacy in Richmond, Melbourne. There he did well, but his interest in the business side of pharmacy did not prevent him indulging his botanical bent, and early in the fifties he commenced the study of the eucalypts which practically helped to make the remarkable properties of these trees known to the world. By-and-by the late Baron von Müller joined him in the investigation, taking up the scientific side while Mr. Bosisto devoted himself to the economic, and this



enabled him to perfect his study of the eucalyptus oils. The distillation of these oils he made a business in the sixties, and he sent a complete collection of oils to the Paris Exhibition, 1868, this being the first complete collection received in Europe. For a long time the oil which he made commercial was that of the *Eucalyptus Globulus*, but as the demand for the oil increased, the oils of other species, especially *E. amygdalina* and *E. cneorifolia*, were added. Mr. Bosisto took an active interest in pharmaceutical matters in Victoria, and when a Pharmaceutical Society was founded in that colony, fully twenty years ago, he was elected its first President. He was equally active in municipal matters, and was thrice elected Mayor of Richmond. In 1874

"VASOLAN" is rather a clever trade-mark, which a German wool-factory is registering in Germany. Presumably, it is for petroleum-jelly and wool-fat compound.

he was elected a member of the Victoria Legislative Assembly, where he sat continuously for fifteen years. In 1886 he was appointed Chairman of the Victorian Commission to the Indian and Colonial Exhibition. By this time he had retired from retail pharmacy, and was thus able to come to London. His work in the exhibition will be recalled by many who had the privilege of enjoying his hospitality. It was recognised by the Queen bestowing upon him the Companionship of St. Michael and St. George. Mr Bosisto was, in 1887, elected an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

FARR.—At Ashleigh, Halifax, on December 7, Mr. James Farr, chemist and druggist. Aged 70. The late Mr. Farr was a native of Wheelock, near Sandbach, and served his apprenticeship with Mr. Massey, chemist, Manchester. On completing his apprenticeship, he went as assistant to Mr. Denton, Northgate, Halifax. A short time afterwards he started business on his own account in the town, where he built up a prosperous business which he carried on until his retirement three years ago. The business is now in the hands of Mr. W. S. Thompson. The late Mr. Farr devoted much of his time to religious work, and as recently as two months ago was presented with his portrait by the members of his Sunday school class. Deceased gentleman was a Past President of the Halifax Chemists' Association. The funeral took place on December 10, and amongst the mourners were Messrs. W. C. Hebden, J. B. Brierley, and W. S. Thompson, representing the chemists of the town.

JENNER.—On December 11, at Greenwood, Dursley, Hants, Sir William Jenner. Aged 84. Sir William Jenner was born at Chatham, and educated at University College. He became a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Society in 1837, in 1884 graduated M.D. in the University of London, and four years afterwards became a member of the Royal College of Physicians. He was a Queen's physician for over thirty years, retiring from that position in 1893 owing to failing health. Sir William Jenner attended the Prince of Wales



in his historic attack of typhoid fever in 1872. He was created a baronet in 1868, K.C.B. in 1872, and G.C.B. in 1889, when he finally retired from practice to his country seat at Bishop's Waltham. In addition to his private practice Sir William Jenner has filled the position of physician to the Hospital for Sick Children, the London Fever Hospital, and the University College Hospital. He was President of the Royal College of Physicians from 1881 to 1888 a Fellow of the Royal Society, D.C.L. of Oxford, and LL.D. of Cambridge and Edinburgh. Sir William's chief personal characteristic was abruptness, but in reality he possessed a kind and generous nature, combined with great energy and industry. He was recognised as a specialist in diphtheria, typhoid, and diseases of the lungs and heart, his diagnoses of which were very rapid. He died of old age, and had taken to his bed only for the last seven days.

SMITH.—On December 6, at Sefton Park, Liverpool, Elizabeth, wife of Mr. R. G. Smith, chemist. Aged 52.

Correspondence.

In writing letters for publication correspondents should adopt a concise, but not abbreviated, style. They are requested to write on one side of the paper only. Letters, with or without a non-de-plume, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

Notice to Correspondents.

Queries should be written on separate pieces of paper, and the regulations printed under the sections to which they apply should be strictly observed.

The Medical Council's Inspector of Examinations.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Governor and Court of the Apothecaries' Hall to draw your attention to a slight error which appears in your report of the proceedings of the G.M.C. (*vide* page 929). I beg to inform you that the appointment of Sir Geo. Duffley as Inspector of Examinations has not been confirmed by the General Medical Council, as stated by you, an amendment having been passed leaving the appointment of inspector, who is to be either English or Scotch, in the hands of the Executive Committee.

R. MONTGOMERY, M.R.C.S., Secretary.

The Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, December 12.

The Advantages of Local Organisation.

SIR,—In your last issue there is a report of a meeting of Preston chemists convened to discuss the desirability of forming a local association.

I am disappointed to see that it was not decided unanimously at the meeting to found one. It is, however, evidence of the healthy spirit extant in North Lancashire and of the energy of the gentlemen connected with the Federated Associations of that district.

The example might be followed with advantage in other parts of the country wherever there is a town of any size, or even a group of small towns as we find in many parts of Lancashire and other manufacturing districts.

Local associations, even if they are not frequently convened, form a nucleus round which the members of the trade in the neighbourhood may collect to discuss matters of importance to themselves locally and to the members of their calling throughout the country.

From a business point of view it is an advantage to meet the members of our craft that reside in the same town. It has a tendency to break down that reserve—or should I say trade jealousy?—that often exists. It will be found, when this has rubbed off, that we have often misjudged our neighbours, and that they are at the bottom really good fellows.

In these days of competition it is often an advantage to buy together, and it is surprising what this will do in increasing our profits if we are able to pay cash.

Apart from the friendships that are sure to result from attending such association meetings, there is the fact that it tends to bring us out of ourselves, and to bring us into touch with our fellow men, which is essential to a business man.

R. C. COWLEY.

The Apothecaries' Assistants' Certificate.

SIR,—I have read, with some consternation, in your journal of December 10, that the Pharmaceutical Society are about to apply for power to take to themselves the sole right of dispensing all medical prescriptions. I quite agree that some restriction should be put upon such important work as this.

I have now been dispensing for medical men for over twenty years, and hold the Apothecaries' Hall certificate. Surely the holders of these certificates are worthy of some consideration, otherwise what is the use of the examination? I sincerely trust that something may be done to prevent the livelihood being taken away from those who hold the certificate of the

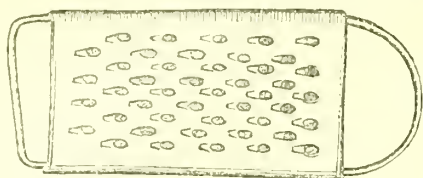
December 13.

APOTHECARIES' HALL. (125/61)

A Pharmaceutical Grater.

SIR,—Gratitude for blessings received during the greater part of your existence induces me to enclose and bring to your notice and my fellow confrères a very useful little

article. I find it a labour-saving machine for scraping bees', white, and paraffin waxes, spermaceti, fresh lemons, and oranges. Mrs. Pestle will find it useful for suet, carrots—



in fact, the uses to which this simple apparatus may be put are legion.

I have no desire to turn tinsmith; but should any reader not be able to obtain the article, I shall be pleased to send one for two penny stamps to cover postage.

Yours truly,
GEO. HUDSON.

Elland.

Unusual Pick-me-ups.

SIR,—Perhaps the subjoined note on "Pick-me-ups" taken the morning following "a big night" may be of interest to some of your readers. A customer, who had failed to right himself with a pint of champagne in the belief that "a hair of the dog that bit him" was the best cure, purchased a bottle of Valentine's meat-juice, swallowed the contents, and repeated the dose in half an hour, declaring himself then fit for a hard day's work. Some years ago I saw a man similarly affected swallow tr. opii $\bar{\text{z}}$ iv. at one draught with the desired effect, but of course he was a laudanum-drinker. Another person believes in ol. ricini $\bar{\text{z}}$ iv. as the most effectual cure for an overdose of whisky; whilst another, who, like Shakespeare, advocated "Throw physic to the dogs," pins his faith to a whole bottleful of Worcester sauce as a remedy. Happy are we who do not need such heroic doses!

Yours, &c.,

CARDAMOMS. (118/19.)

Corrections.

C. & D. DIARY MATTERS.—Mr. H. de Giez (Lausanne) calls our attention, at the request of M. Casimir Strzyzowski, to an error in the alkaloid-table, printed on page 266. The last column should be headed "Ortho-nitrophenyl propionic Acid," not "Picric Acid." The latter acid is useless for the purpose.

We may also note that in the formula for Inf. Gent. Co. Conc., page 263, "fresh orange-peel" is a misprint for "fresh lemon-peel."

Drawback on Tinctures: Ext. strophanthi should not have been included in the list on page 936, no drawback being allowed on solid alcoholic extracts.

In Mr. Lucas's address to School of Pharmacy Students' Association (*C. & D.*, November 26, p. 855) "the proportions of" should be inserted between the words "No examiner would require to know what were . . ." and " . . . the constituents of Gregory's powder, &c."

Mr. G. F. Foster (Hon. Secretary of the Public Dispensers' Association) writes that he did not intend to say, as our report of the last meeting of the Association states, that "the arguments of the President [of the Pharmaceutical Society] to him personally, deprecating the interference of the Society, were absolutely ridiculous." His remarks were meant to apply to the arguments of the Society as a body.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We reply to subscribers and their employes only upon subjects of interest to other readers generally. When more than one query is sent write each on a separate piece of

Notice to Querists. paper. When a sample accompanies a query full particulars regarding the origin and use of the sample must be given, and it must be distinctly labelled. Queries are not replied to by post, and those sent anonymously are disregarded.

100/54 *J. P. H.*—Acamulsia is, we believe, a mixture of acacia and tragacanth. We meet with it occasionally in the American journals.

102/39. *J. D. D.*—Forty per cent. is the pass-minimum for each of the subjects in the "First" examination, but candidates must obtain 50 per cent. on the whole to pass.

100/57. *Blood-mixture* sends his formula for Blood-mixture composed of iodide of potassium, liquor potassæ, dec. sarsæ co., glycerin, and chloroform-water, which gives a lot of trouble by developing a fungoid growth and precipitate. The liq. potassæ we believe to be the cause of the decomposition which takes place; it should be omitted. There is plenty of preservative in the mixture.

102/64. *Febrifuge*.—Liq. Ammon. Acet. 1 to 7:—

Glacial acetic acid	...	...	3x.
Carbonate of ammonia (freshly powdered)	...	...	a sufficient quantity
Water to	...	...	3xxiiss.

Dilute the acid with an equal quantity of water, neutralise with carbonate of ammonia, filter, and make up to measure.

100/22. *D. L.*—You do not sufficiently explain the difficulty you are in over the examination-question "From the sp. gr. of the sample of sulphuric acid given you find its strength from the table given you." The mean of the two sp. grs. you give being 1.755, a reference to Lunge's tables (the most usual ones) gives the strength of the acid as 82 per cent.

104/14. *Palermo*.—Black Lacquer.—Aniline dyes do not have enough density for use in spirit lacquers. The following is a formula much used:—

Black pitch	...	...	3vj.
Oil of turpentine	...	...	5ij.
Benzol	...	...	3xvj.

Dissolve.

101/52. *N. G.*—Sirop de Raifort Iodé.—Scurvy-grass, watercress, horseradish-root, all fresh, of each 100 parts; buckbean, fresh, 10 parts; bitter-orange peel, 20 parts; canella, 5 parts; white wine, 400 parts; sugar, 500 parts. Contuse and comminute the solids, macerate for forty-eight hours in the wine, and distil off 100 parts. Express and strain the residue; clarify with white of egg, and strain and dissolve in it 300 parts of sugar. With the rest of the sugar make with water a thick syrup, and when cold add the distilled portion and mix the two syrups. This is iodised by adding to 99 parts 1 part of tincture of iodine.

110/49. *J. E. P.*—Theatrical Make-up Trade.—See *C. & D.* for July 25, 1896, p. 141.

103/50. *Adipis*.—(1) The sour meat-and-malt wine is past restoration. (2) A set of rules, as in use at the Army and Navy Stores, was published in the *C. & D.*, May 19, 1894, page 695. It is too long to repeat here.

103/39. *E. J. G.*—You will find particulars of how to obtain the Spectacle-makers' diploma in the *C. & D.*, September 24, page 516, and October 1, page 552.

103/70. *Subtilitas*.—In "Diseases and Remedies," page 158, you will find the information on urticaria which you inquire about.

94/11. *Rex* wants to make an elixir of sumbul which will mix clear with water. As sumbul-root contains about 9 per cent. of resin, "Rex" must either mix a liquid extract of sumbul with twice its bulk of water and filter out the precipitated resin, or treat with caustic potash, which renders some of the resin soluble. Both methods impair the flavour, and as the medicinal effects of the root are due to the resin, it is obvious that a tincture made soluble as indicated does not represent the medicinal value of the drug.

91/54. *Hotspur*.—The dose of pulv. elaterini co. for a horse is from 10 to 40 gr. Calomel is more certain in action, and is given in doses of from 30 to 60 gr.

100/21. *Dentes*.—Carbolic Tooth-powder.—See *C. & D.*, May 7, 1893, page 772.

91/42. *B. W. G.*—The opening chapter of the article on "The Art of Pharmacy," in the 1893 DIARY, will, we think, give you all the information you require on Drying Drugs.

84/34. *Vera*.—The only available information on medicinal-lozenge making is contained in books on pharmacy. In the 1893 DIARY there was a chapter on the subject, and

some practical hints and formulas. For Sugar-boiling Skuse's "Confectionery" (Bush, 7s. 6d.) will be useful.

98/35. *W. B.*—See reply to "Vera" (84/34). Maw's supply lozenge cutters and stamps.

98/39. *Analysis.*—You can learn the best course to pursue to become an analytical chemist from the Educational number of the *C. & D.*, September 3, 1893.

82/47. *J. E. B.*—You should, for small charts of the nerves and circulation, inquire of J. & A. Churehill, New Burlington Street, W., or Baillière, Tindall & Cox, King William Street, W.C. One of these firms, we believe, publishes something of the kind.

88/61. *B. C. H.*—We think your want of success in working with the "Perfection" suppository-press is due to working in a cold place. The cocoa-butter is not so easy to manage when it is chilled. When in this state it requires a little warmth.

89/58. *L. L.*—Your aperient pill would be better if it contained $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of ext. hyoseyami. The present formula will be too gripping in action. Ext. hyosey. is not a scheduled poison as you seem to imply.

88/71. *E. S.*—Are you sure the lard you used for your ung. potass. iodid. was not acid? It seems to have been sufficiently acid to have not only neutralised the potass. carb. but to have liberated the iodine. Will you perform the B.P. test for limit of acidity, and see if this is not so?

93/51. *Aurantii.*—(1) "Eillet" is a synthetic perfume resembling the odour of earanons. Drug-houses supply it. (2) We have no formula for Russian violet.

97/15. *Cordial* (Cape Town).—(1) Your lime-juice essence seems at fault. (2) Our advertisement columns offer you a good choice of makers of first-class concentrated soluble essences. You should get into correspondence with them.

82/38. *Retap.*—We cannot see where you go wrong in your compressed-tablet making. A perusal of the article on tablet-making in "Pharmaceutical Formulas" or Frank Edel's "How to Make Tablets" may suggest where you are at fault.

104/17. *X. Y. Z.*—We cannot undertake to analyse proprietary metal-polishes. Some of them are largely compounded of kieselguhr and soft paraffin.

104/51. *P. K.*—Is your object merely to colour olive oil, and for what purpose do you require it?

104/43. *Registered Dentist* finds that the administration of sal volatile to fainting persons after tooth-extraction sickens the patients. There are other diffusible stimulants which might be used in this case, such as spirit of ether or spirit of chloroform, but on the whole sal volatile is to be preferred; it may be given along with spirit of chloroform.

106/5. *D. & N.*—Probably formalin volatilised in the room would destroy the mites which are infesting your customer's furniture. It is worth trying.

104/55. *Digitalis*—Glycerin-tinctures are made by taking the Pharmacopœia ingredients and macerating and percolating with a menstruum made by diluting a mixture of 2½ parts of acetic acid and 25 parts by measure of glycerin to 100 parts with water. Further particulars are given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 624.

114/46. *Birmingham.*—The doctor's Corn-cure is a solution of salicylic acid in spirit (5j. in 5j.).

109/70. *Oleum.*—(1) The Skin-ointment is lanoline and zinc ointment, but does not appear to have sufficient interest to warrant us making a complete analysis. (2) The oil of cloves and peppermint which you have accidentally mixed would suit a sugar-boiler or a plumber.

103/62. *Alpha.*—The sample of Tailor's Cloth-marker is French chalk which has been coloured with ultramarine.

105/55. *Sample.*—The Fumigating-liquid for Green-houses is a solution of crude nicotine and camphor in spirit. In "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 336, you will find the method for making the crude nicotine, and if you omit the soap from the formula given there, a similar preparation to your sample will be yielded.

156/22. *J. W. K.*—You did not enclose the label.

114/64. *Ink.*—For information on removing aniline marking-ink from linen, see *C. & D.*, January 1, 1898, page 30, or March 12, 1893, page 456.

114/53. *Aldred.*—From your description the liquid used for wetting the stone on which razors are sharpened seems to be heavy petroleum oil.

115/40. *H. S. F. B.*—Potass. sulph. is not a good diluent for eatomel for teething-powders; saccharum lactis is about the best you can use.

110/23. *Clement.*—To Make Waterproof Aniline Marking-ink the method is to use a base made by boiling shellac 4 oz., borax 2 oz. in water 1 gal. till dissolved. In this liquid the aniline dye is dissolved.

139/23. *Pharmacist.*—We have no formulas for photographic tablets.

112/62. *Benzine.*—All volatile hydrocarbons are inflammable. For a hair-wash, to use in place of benzine, there is a formula in the *C. & D.*, August 7, 1897, page 238.

112/17. *Country Chemist.*—Pye's "Elementary Bandaging and Surgical Dressing" (Wright), 2s., is one you could recommend to a nurse.

109/63. *Viola Odorata.*—Candidates for the Minor in 1899 need not trouble about the 1885 B.P. It would be as well, however, to know the alterations which have taken place in the 1898 B.P. This you can very well do by studying the articles in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1899.

111/58. *G. S. S.* wants to know what drug will Prevent Mice going into Musical Instruments, such as American organs. Mice are said to dislike mint and camphor and to forsake places scented with them, so that the remedy is obvious.

110/18. *Veritas.*—The porous plasters are useless from age. There is nothing you can do to restore their adhesive property.

[There has been so much speaking this week that writers have little chance in this issue. We are compelled to keep back several pages of letters, dispensing notes, and legal queries.—Ed.]

Information Wanted.

The Editor will be obliged for replies to the following from any who can furnish the information.

122/4. Makers of "La Rose" violet-powder.

114/55. Iota feeding-bottles: who makes?

115/65. Makers of 1d. theatrical grease-paints.

106/23. Clear sulphate-of-copper pencils: where obtainable?

110/23. Who supplies kieselguhr of the quality used for filtering?

10/12. Drs. Starkey and Palen's compound oxygen: where obtainable?

106/2. Who supplies small quantities of tins for horse-powders, &c., with stock names printed on?

125/38. Makers of "Pownall's liquid blue."

124/55. Address of makers of "Bayard's universal hair-restorer."

Trade Report.

The prices quoted below are the bottom prices obtained for bulk quantities by importers and manufacturers, who do not supply retailers. They are in many cases exclusive of various charges.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: December 15.

CONFIDENCE now rules the markets, for although some departments are quiet and spot purchases are influenced by stock-taking, good forward business is being done, and the feeling prevails that the new year will open well. There are few changes of importance to report this week, but the following table shows the principal movements:

Higher	Firmer	Lower
Cinchona	Nux vomica	Coumarin
Elemi	Pepper	Gum kauri
Menthol	Potash permanganate	Oil, citronella
Oil, turpentine	Vanilla	Oil, lemongrass
Shellac		

London Drug Statistics.

THE following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses from January 1, 1898, to November 30, and to the stocks on November 30. Their accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

	November		Stocks, Nov. 30		Imprtd. to Nov. 30	Delivd. 1898
	Landed	Delivd.	1898	1897		
Aloes cs &c.	85	183	2,821	2,687	2,050	1,900
" gounds	—	1,988	1,720	1,849	3,522	4,205
Anise, star .....cs	—	—	5	64	90	124
Balsams .....csks &c.	96	209	433	424	1,598	1,193
Calamba .....bgs	212	141	1,621	15	2,719	2,179
Camphor .....pkgs	67	1,757	7,538	11,268	2,493	6,467
Cardamoms .....cs &c.	152	361	1,187	462	4,514	3,807
Cinchona .....pkgs	931	1,449	20,216	17,517	24,107	20,379
Cubeb .....bgs	—	11	1,858	467	1,682	213
Dragons' blood .....cs	20	12	29	67	100	131
Galls .....pkgs	105	739	3,889	3,963	6,683	6,555
Gums—						
Acacia "	1,825	1,780	9,895	12,551	15,445	18,101
Ammoniacum "	—	7	67	32	73	28
Animi & copal "	1,189	2,652	15,034	18,049	31,441	37,167
Asafetida "	—	97	351	228	609	748
Benzoin "	129	353	2,342	2,596	3,554	3,595
Damar "	81	334	2,696	2,927	4,955	5,879
Galbanum "	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gamboge "	64	20	402	302	297	180
Guaiaacum "	—	—	85	125	125	95
Kauri .....pkgs	271	366	515	768	2,762	2,975
Kino .....pkgs	29	2	64	19	69	28
Mastic "	15	2	21	—	61	40
Myrrh "	33	41	449	583	179	286
Olibanum "	60	403	2,742	1,048	5,468	3,646
Sandarac "	12	125	853	809	1,245	1,222
Tragacanth "	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ipecacuanha, Rio bis	54	41	133	219	452	556
" other kinds pkgs	24	20	31	19	250	445
Jalap .....pkgs	—	28	293	347	122	517
Nux vomica .....pkgs	557	230	687	149	1,143	585
Oils—						
*Anise .....cs	20	19	253	147	222	110
*Cassia .....cs	—	—	78	116	30	83
Castor .....pkgs	249	103	655	562	1,748	1,582
Cocoa-nut tons	13	88	36	106	1,442	1,163
Olive .....pkgs	23	157	695	779	2,260	2,203
Palm tons	—	—	—	22	22	28
†Quinine sulph. ....lbs	4,653	4,261	107,809	92,372	59,317	47,653
Rhubarb .....chds	316	137	1,726	941	2,132	1,381
Senna .....b's &c.	542	702	1,475	1,216	5,037	4,916
Shellac, all kinds cs	2,933	3,644	43,192	49,533	43,927	47,683
Turmeric .....tons	9	47	269	400	277	327
Wax, bees' .....pkgs	266	951	2,027	2,932	5,599	6,429
" Japan "	—	59	383	148	925	769

* Stocks of aniseed and cassia oils lying at Smith's Wharf and Brewer's Quay are not included in this return.

† Includes the quantity at Red Lion, Bull, and Smith's Wharves; also the Dock's.

Tincture Drawback.

A meeting of the Chemical-trade Section of the Chamber of Commerce was held on Monday, Mr. David Howard presiding, in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, Mr. Thomas Tyrer. An informal discussion took place upon the drawback upon spirituous preparations for exportation and a sub-committee of the Drug-trade Sub-section was appointed to report upon the matter. On Thursday this committee brought up its report. Mr. Tyrer presided at this meeting, and the firms represented were Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., Evans, Lescher & Webb, Curling & Wyman, Davy, Hill & Co., Horner & Son, Hewlett & Son, T. Christy & Co., &c. A long but practical discussion took place upon the desirability of applying to the Excise authorities on the lines indicated in our recent articles for further concessions in exporting spirituous preparations. The feeling of the meeting was that the general orders, issued by the authorities from time to time, were not comprehensive in the sense of including all the concessions or variations which had at times been made to those possessing the requisite licence, and something in the nature of a codification is required. The committee also discussed the desirability of including the articles in the new British Pharmacopœia on which no drawback or allowance is at present conceded upon exportation. The desirability of adding preparations upon which the same concession might advantageously be allowed was also considered, with the result that a small committee, consisting of Mr. Shaw (Curling & Wyman), Mr. Millard (C. J. Hewlett & Son), and Mr. J. C. Umney (Wright, Layman & Umney, and Secretary of the Drug Club), was appointed to draft a list of the desirable additions, which will be in due course sent to known exporting-houses for their remarks and additions. These lists when returned will be classified and again reviewed by the Committee of the Drug-trade Sub-section, and embodied in a suitable letter to the Board of Inland Revenue.

Heavy Chemicals.

Business in the heavy chemical market is quieting down considerably in view of the turn of the year, and the wish of consumers to carry forward as small stocks as possible. There are no important changes to report, either as regards the position or values of the various products.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—Bleaching-powder still stands at about 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* over next year, and it seems improbable that price will decline any further. Caustic soda keeps on the low side for forward.

COLOURS.—Pure ivory-black, 12*s.* per cwt.; lamp-black, according to quality, 5*s.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; mineral black, ordinary quality, 3*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and best qualities, 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Ultramarine, pure, 40*s.* to 45*s.* per cwt. Ochre, French, J. F. 6*l.* 5*s.* per ton; French, J. C., 60*s.* to 62*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Umber, Turkish, 40*s.* per cwt.; Devonshire, 47*s.* 6*d.* to 52*s.* 6*d.* Oxide of iron, finest, 20*l.*; medium, 10*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; and common, 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton.

MAGNESIUM SALTS.—Chloride of magnesium, 2*l.* 10*s.*; sulphate (Epsom salts), 2*l.* 15*s.* to 3*l.*; calcined magnesite, 1*s.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* per lb.; carbonate, 37*s.* 6*d.* to 40*s.* per cwt.; magnesite lump, 40*s.* per ton; raw ground, 98-per-cent., 5*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*

SOUTH DURHAM SALT a shade easier, at 9*s.* to 9*s.* 6*d.* per ton, free on board Tees.

ALUMINA PRODUCTS are in fair consumptive demand. Purest makes white sulphate of alumina, 77*s.* 6*d.* to 80*s.* per ton on rails in casks, and usual deductions for other packages and loose slabs; aluminous cake, 45*s.*; aluminous ferric, 42*s.* 6*d.* to 44*s.*; bauxite, 60-per-cent. alumina, 16*s.* 6*d.* per ton, f.o.b.; hydrate of alumina, 12*l.* to 12*l.* 5*s.* free on rails; crystal alum, 4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 15*s.*; and ground, 5*l.* 5*s.* to 5*l.* 10*s.*; aluminate of soda, high strength, 36*s.* 6*d.* to 38*s.* per cwt.; carbonate of alumina, 37*s.*

ANILINE OIL AND SALTS are a shade dearer.

LEAD COMPOUNDS somewhat quieter, at unchanged rates.

Liverpool Drug-market.

Liverpool, December 14.

CASTOR OIL.—Good seconds Calcutta has improved during the week, and 2½*d.* is asked in store, though a shade less might be taken for quay lots. First pressing French is held for 2½*d.* to 2½*d.*, and second pressing 2½*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb. For good seconds Madras 2½*d.* is still asked by holders.

QUILLAIMA.—Sales are reported from the quay at 17*l.* 10*s.* per ton, owing to arrivals, but the tone of importers may be said to be firmer.

BEES' WAX.—This article has advanced fully 5s. since December 1, and sales of Chilian in quantity are reported at 6*l.* 12s. 6*d.* Now importers are asking higher prices. Considerable sales have been effected of Gambia wax at 6*l.* 7s. 6*d.* to 6*l.* 10s. per cwt. from the quay.

HONEY.—The market is still bare of Californian, and for the remaining stocks of Chilian some holders are asking an advance on current prices. Quotations range from 23s. for Pile 3 up to 32s. for Pile X.

GINGER, AFRICAN.—Thirty bags of prime quality have changed hands at 20s per cwt.

CHILLIES.—Fifty-six bags low grade Sierra Leone are reported sold at 30s., and 8 bags similar quality at 25s. An arrival of bright Niger capsicums is held for the extreme price of 30s.

SPERMACETI.—Though no further business has transpired during the week, holders are still firm at 1s. 3*d.* per lb. for prime white.

TURMERIC.—For the remaining stock of Madras fine finger 35s. is asked.

GUM ACACIA SORTS.—Twelve serons of rather fine soft Soudan have changed hands at 71s. 6*d.*, and 7 serons of medium Senegal at 55s.

SCAMMONY-ROOT.—A sale is reported of a parcel at 22s. per cwt.

SULPHATE OF COPPER.—Firm, at 18*l.* 5s. per ton for commercial.

SARSAPARILLA.—The 10 bales Honduras recently offered at auction are reported as having been sold at 1s.

German Drug-market.

Hamburg, December 13.

The drug-market is quiet, as usual at this time of the year, and alterations are but few.

AGAR-AGAR steady; a small lot is offered at 310m. per 100 kilos.

CITRIC ACID is firm and dearer at 245m. per 100 kilos.

STAR-ANISE, on the spot, is 280m., and forward 210m. per 100 kilos.

BALSAM COPAIBA is more freely offered; to-day's price is 320m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR (REFINED) is without business, and second-hand holders will accept 287½m. per 100 kilos., which indicates a somewhat easier market.

CONDURANGO-BARK is firmer, and holders now ask 46m. per 100 kilos.

CASCARA SAGRADA firm at 48m. per 100 kilos.

CUMIN-SEED is again dearer, and in firm hands at 68m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT OF RYE, very little is to be had for spot-delivery.

QUININE makers now quote 29m., and second-hand 28½m. per kilo.

SPERMACETI steady at 270m. per 100 kilos.

IPECACUANHA a little easier, sound Rio can be had at 22m. per kilo.

WAX (JAPAN) quiet, 62½m. to 63m. per 100 kilos.

COCAINE firmer at 355m. to 360m. per kilo.

OILS.—Russian anise firm at 13½m. per kilo.; star-anise quiet and lower at 13½m. per kilo.; castor is dull and lower, first pressing in barrels, on the spot, 53m., January-June shipment, 49m. per 100 kilos.

Cablegram.

HAMBURG, December 15, 12 43 P.M.—Business continues steady. Camphor is quiet at 285m. per 100 kilos. for refined; quinine is firm, but unchanged in price. Cevadilla is improving, and in better supply at 70m. per 100 kilos.

Cinchona.

As the Amsterdam auctions last week were the last of the year, the situation may conveniently be reviewed now. Last week's sales were moderately heavy in offerings and sales, the bark being made up as follows (1 kilo. = 22 lbs.) :—

Offered.	Sold.
Ledgeriana ... 511,190 kilos.	Total, 8,147 packages, of which 7,453 were sold. The manufacturing bark sold weighed 563,996 kilos., and contained the equivalent of 29,609 kilos. (1,036,315 oz.) of quinine sulphate. The average quinine equivalent was 5.24 per cent., against 5.3 per cent. at the November sale.
Succirubra ... 119,197 kilos.	
Hybrids ... 54,251 kilos.	
Officialis ... 830 kilos.	
Calisaya ... 100 kilos.	
685,568 kilos.	

Of this, 86,085 kilos. was root bark. Altogether there were 8,147 packages of bark, containing the equivalent of 32,881 kilos. (1,150,835 oz.) of quinine sulphate

The published analyses do not show the cinchonidine-content of the succirubra bark, which is now the dearest, relatively, the price obtained at the sales being 10c. (2*d.*) per unit, while the quinine unit was 4½c. (5c. = 1*d.*). Last week's quinine unit varied from 4¼c. to 5½c., but bark equal to 18,710 kilos. quinine sulphate sold at 4½c. to 5c. The highest price paid for an individual parcel was 75½c. per half-kilo. (1s. 3*d.* per lb.) for fine long quill succirubra bark. The highest quinine-sulphate equivalent was 9.21 per cent., in a Ledgeriana bark of Government culture; this sold at 41½c. to 47¼c. per half-kilo.

This year's offerings have been the heaviest on record, but the sales total less quinine sulphate than in 1896, as the following table shows :—

	Java Shipments, in Kilos.	Bark Offered, in Kilos.	Per Cent. Quinine Sulphate	Equivalent of Quinine Sulphate in Bark Sold. Kilos.	Unit, in Cents
1893 ...	—	4,909,337	4.2-5.0	135,176	2.62-5.8
1894 ...	4,193,350	4,655,325	4.6-5.1	152,287	2.8-4.5
1895 ...	4,098,350	5,770,493	4.6-5.3	194,664	2.5-3
1896 ...	4,594,500	5,765,651	5.0-5.8	258,142	2.17-3
1897 ...	3,853,330	5,315,173	5.2-6.1	230,674	2.12-7.9
1898 ...	5,066,600	6,495,351	4.8-5.4	237,680	4.05-6.9

The shipments are January-November, and represent, in the majority of cases, nineteen-twentieths of the year's supply. It will be seen, therefore, that this year is distinguished by three circumstances :—

(1) The shipments of bark have been exceptionally heavy.

(2) The unit fell from 6.9c. in January to 4.1c. in May and 4.05 in October, but has since risen, in face of the large shipments, to 4½c. On the whole, it was almost as good as last year, which was the best since 1893.

(3) The bark offered much exceeds previous records, but the quantity sold (= 8,318,800 oz. of quinine sulphate) is not much in excess of last year. This is most likely due to the higher unit, as it is well known that manufacturers now use up the bark as soon as they buy it, and do not allow it to lie in the warehouses until prompt-day, as was once the case.

At the last London auctions of the year held on Tuesday a moderate supply was offered, the greater proportion of which found buyers at somewhat advanced rates on the previous auctions, but scarcely sufficient to alter the penny unit. The offerings consisted of :—

	Packages offered, 826 of which	Packages, 650 were sold.
East Indian cinchona...	390	384
South American cinchona...	367	232
Java cinchona...	218	218
African cinchona	135	135
Ceylon cinchona	...	...
	1,936	1,619

The following figures represent the approximate quantities of bark purchased by the principal buyers :—

	Lbs.
Agents for the Brunswick factory...	109,319
Agents for the Frankfort-on-Maine and Stuttgart factories ...	52,727
Agents for the American and Italian factories ...	40,939
Agents for the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories ...	37,233
Agents for the Imperial Quinine Company ...	21,516
Agents for the Paris factory ...	20,427
Messrs. Howards & Sons ...	18,580
Druggists, &c. ...	35,364
Total quantity sold ...	336,165
Bought in or withdrawn ...	74,606
Total quantity offered ...	410,771

The following were some of the prices paid :—African fair red quill, 4½*d.* to 4¾*d.*, and bold chips, 4½*d.* to 4¾*d.* per lb.; Ceylon, Succirubra, stem chips and shavings, 2½*d.* to 2¾*d.*, renewed ditto, 2¾*d.* to 3½*d.*; South American, Bolivian culti-

vated calisaya quill, 5½d. to 7d., for fair to good damaged flat, 5½d. to 5¾d., red broken quill, 1s. 11d.; Java, Ledgeriana, branch, 2½d. to 3¾d., stem chips, 2¾d. to 3¾d., and good root at 5d. to 5½d.; East Indian, red stem chips, 2¾d., renewed ditto, good, at 3½d. to 3¾d., ordinary to fair officinalis, 2½d. to 3½d., good, 3½d. to 4½d., and quill at 4d.

The following figures show the quantities of bark offered and sold in London this year, and the variations of the unit:—

	Offered	Sold	Unit
	Lbs.	Lbs.	
January	700,299	432,290	1½d.-1¾d.
February	417,299	189,802	1½d.-1¾d.
March	654,153	404,619	¾d.-1d.
April	489,867	386,857	¾d.
May	942,775	599,390	¾d.-¾d.
June	552,643	495,273	¾d.-¾d.
July	237,201	204,156	¾d.
August	339,378	220,834	¾d.
September	379,387	264,732	¾d.-¾d.
October	340,095	294,000	1½d.-½d.
November	108,184	77,610	1d.
December	410,771	336,606	1d.

The exports from India for six months, ending September 30, 1898, were 194,081 lbs., as compared with 496,588 lbs. for the same period of 1897, and 818,283 lbs. in 1896. The shipments from Ceylon from January 1 to November 23 have been—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	808,497	614,672	1,231,359	845,160

London Markets.

ACID, CITRIC.—The paragraph under this heading in our last report should have been "Acid, Tartaric." The quotation for citric remains unchanged at 1s. 1d. per lb. for English crystals in contract quantities.

ACID, TARTARIC, remains firm at unchanged rates. Makers report a good business during the last ten days owing to the advance in the price of raw materials, and probable early rise in the refined.

AMBERGRIS.—Grey of full flavour is selling at 95s. per oz.

ARSENIC—Best white English powder is quoted at 18l. per ton landed.

BALSAM, PERU.—In good demand at 8s. 3d. to 8s. 4½d. per lb.

BENZOL.—Since the auctions sales of fair almondy Sumatra seconds have been made at up to 7l. per cwt., and generally good business has been done at firm rates.

BORAX maintains the firm rates last reported. Howards advanced their prices on December 9 by 1s. per cwt., their price for five-cwt. lots being 17s. per cwt. for refined crystals, and powder 19s. Boric acid they quote 33s. 6d. to 34s. 6d. per cwt., according to fineness of powder.

BUCHU.—Fair round green leaves are obtainable at 5½d. to 6d. per lb. in second hands. There is little offered by the importers, but what they have they want 5½d. for.

CAMPHOR.—Crude Japanese has sold this week to the extent of 200 piculs at 105s. a cwt. c.i.f., December-January, which is slightly easier. This was speculative business. The same quantity of Chinese is offered at 99s., c.i.f. The shipments from Shanghai to the Continent from January 1 to November 12 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Boxes ...	14,482	25,563	21,165	18,282

English refiners are not likely to advance prices further this year, but much depends upon the German refiners, whose forward price is higher than the spot quotation. The market is exceedingly firm.

CARDAMOMS.—The Ceylon exports from January 1 to November 22 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	430,016	452,276	335,024	306,535

The quotations at Colombo on November 22 were from 1.75r. to 2.25r. for Mysore, and 1.05r. to 1.10r. for Malabars

CANELLA ALBA.—Business has been done at 57s. 6d. per cwt.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—A dead letter on this market, the quotation being 25s. per cwt. spot.

COUMARIN.—Business in this article has been cut lately one agent quoting 1s. 7d. per oz. for German make. The nominal price is about 1s. 9d.

COCAINE.—Unchanged, but there is talk of cutting going on, and 10s. 9d., the official quotation, is only maintained by one or two. The manufacturers find it difficult to get sufficient supplies of the crude alkaloid or of coca-leaves at their prices. Good manufacturing Iguanaco leaves are 1s. per lb. —a figure dangerously near the price of the alkaloid.

DAMIANA-LEAVES.—Following the New York abundance the spot-price here is now 6d. to 6½d.

DEXTRIN.—Very firm, at 15l. per ton net, ex wharf, from the makers.

ERGOT.—Fine new Spanish is quoted at 3s. to 3s. 1d. per lb. This sold last week at 2s. 10d., and the holders, though limited to the former figures, would submit offers. Russian unchanged, and little doing, at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 8d., according to quality.

ETHER.—The demand for ice-making ether for export has been exceptionally good lately, and still continues. This may be favoured by the rumour that the prices will go up in the beginning of 1899, but all the indications are that prices will be stationary rather than not, and some makers give the assurance that no further advance than the one which we reported some time ago will take place. The makers of potato spirit meet soon to fix the January prices for alcohol. The only thing which favours an advance is that potatoes in some continental districts show signs of rot, and consequently have to be treated expeditiously, but the large drop partly counterbalances this depreciation, and any advance is likely to be fractional.

FARINA.—Very firm. Makers' price is 11l. 15s. to 12l. per ton, ex wharf.

GALLS.—The market for Persian remains in the firm position reported last week, with sales of blue at 55s. to 57s. 6d. per cwt.

Chinese advices, dated October 31, report that the first lots of the new crop, Szechuen quality, and the greater portion of the stocks of plum-shaped Chinese galls, were destroyed in the great Nankow fire on October 1 and 2; prices have therefore considerably advanced. The shipments during October were 539 piculs to Antwerp, and 61 to London.

GOLDEN SEAL.—Rather weak at 2s. 1d. per lb. c.i.f.; there have been a few inquiries, but no business so far.

GUINEA GRAINS.—Further business has been done at 60s. per cwt.

GUM ARABIC.—A good business was done at the close of last week, about 500 cases of East Indian changing hands at 16s. for fair Ghatti, brown Amrad 29s., and unsifted Cawnpore at 28s. per cwt. Forty ba'as of Ghezireh arrived last week, and are held for full values.

GUM ELEMI.—Fine white Manila gum has been advanced recently owing to scarcity, and 35s. per cwt. is now asked by one holder.

GUM MASTIC.—A few small sales of clean pale tears have been made at 2s. per lb.

INSECT-FLOWERS.—A correspondent in Trieste informs us that the stock of Dalmatian insect-flowers at the end of November was 218,000 kilcs., against 207,000 in October. The receipts at Trieste in November amounted to 38,000 kilcs., and the deliveries to 16,900 kilcs. The following are the c.i.f. quotations:—Open flowers, 60s. to 62s. 6d.; half-open, 68s. 6d. to 82s. 6d.; closed, 87s. 6d. to 91s. 6d.; and wild, 104s. 6d. to 112s. 6d. per cwt.

GUMS, VARNISH.—At the auctions to-day the only demand (and that not large) was for kauri, copal, and animi. Of the 2,810 packages of kauri offered 865 sold; 1,656 packages of copal were put up, and 553 sold; and of 115 packages of animi, 64 were disposed of.

Kauri was a little weaker in values. The following were some of the prices obtained for it. Fine dial, 12l. 2s. 6d. per cwt.; good bright pale scraped, 9l. 10s. to 10l. fine

ambury bush, 7l. to 7l. 5s.; half-scraped, 6l., down to 87s.; inferior ditto, 5l. to 5l. 10s.; dark bold bush, 79s. to 87s. 6d.; fine pale bush chips, 70s. to 75s.; East Coast chips, 68s. and 70s. small bush chips, 41s. and 49s.; dark chips, 32s. 6d.; brown pickings, 45s. 6d. to 48s. 6d.; and dust, from 24s. up to 42s. per cwt. Fine pale amber scraped was bought in at 15l.; and three-quarter scraped at 5l. 7s. 6d.

Animi.—Good bold Zanzibar, 11l. 15s.; red and amber, 9l. 10s. to 9l. 12s. 6d.; weaker, 8l. 12s. 6d.; pea-size pickings, 80s. to 5l. 15s.; grain dust, 30s. to 38s.; 1 tin containing 22 specimens worth 40s.

Copal.—Fine bold pale scraped Manila, 61s.; ditto, blocky, 51s.; good pale scraped, 40s. to 50s.; good bright, 37s.; poorer qualities, 31s. 6d. to 35s.; low blocky, 7s. to 9s. 6d.; North Borneo chips, 14s. to 22s.; Benguela did not sell. 50s. to 5l. 7s. 6d. being wanted according to quality.

Damar.—266 cases were offered, and only 1 lot of siftings sold at 27s. 6d.

Olbanum.—2 packages sold out of 366 on offer; 13s. was given for dark and woody garblings, and 28s. for fair seconds.

Accorides.—47 packages of poor qualities went for prices ranging from 3s. to 13s. per cwt.

IPECACUANHA.—Quiet, with sales of an odd bale or two of Rio at previous rates. In Cartagena there is nothing doing. On the whole the market is easier.

MENTHOL.—Remains firm, at from 7s. 4½d. to 7s. 6d. per lb. on the spot, and sales of five-case quantities are reported at the latter figure; the general c.i.f. price is 7s. 9d.

MERCURIALS and quicksilver are unchanged, but in a strong position owing to heavy purchases of the metal, which may yet lead to important changes.

NUX VOMICA.—Business has been done this week at 6s. per cwt. for small dull.

OIL, BERGAMOT.—Oil of new crop is offered at 8s 2d. per lb., f.o.b. Messina, for January delivery.

OIL, CASTOR.—Unchanged. Considerable business has been done lately, and some agents have sold out until April. The present quotations are:—Belgian, first-pressing, 26s. per cwt. spot; second ditto, 24s. 6d., ex-wharf. Hull first-pressing, 25s.; second ditto, 25s. Italian medicinal, 35s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f. London first-pressing, 28s. per cwt.

OIL, CITRONELLA.—Prices for arrival are somewhat easier—viz, 11½d. per lb. for tins, and 11¾d. for drums; on the spot there are sellers at 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 0¾d. for drums; 1s 1¼d. for tins.

The Ceylon exports from January 1 to November 22 were:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Lbs. ...	1,209,142	1,017,487	1,004,217	902,639

OIL, COD-LIVER.—As we shall soon be in the 1899 season, and the consumption has been so poor this winter, holders are anxious to realise at 70s. to 72s. per barrel, c.i.f.

BERGEN, December 3.—The market is dull and somewhat easier, holders in some quarters showing a disposition to realise, though little business has been done. Best Lofoten non-congealing medicinal oil is quoted at 67s. per barrel, f.o.b. terms. Exports from Bergen to date have been 7,931 barrels, against 9,970 barrels at the same time last year. Fishing has not yet commenced owing to the stormy weather.

OIL, EUCALYPTUS.—A fair business has been done this week at from 2s. 1d. to 2s. 3d. per lb. for *Globulus* oils.

OIL, LEMONGRASS.—A large amount of business has been done this week at 2¼d. to 2½d. per oz., c.i.f.

OIL, LIMES.—The market has been easier lately owing to the absence of business, this being the off-season, but good hand-pressed oil has sold at 5s 7d. per lb.

OIL, OLIVE.—The new crop now coming forward shows very good quality, and the importers' prices range from 4s. to 6s. per gal., according to grade.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—Firm. One holder reports sales of 40-per-cent. Japanese oil at 5s. per lb. on the spot, and has realised his stock at this figure; forward delivery is offered at 5s. 3d. to 5s. 4½d. per lb. Dementholised Japanese is held nominally for 3s. 6d., and 3s. 10½d. to 4s. for shipment.

OIL, STAR-ANISE.—Slow of sale at 6s. 1d. to 6s. 2d. per cwt. on the spot. Stock in Shanghai on November 12 was 50 piculs, with sales of 100 to 150 piculs at 837½ to 8380.

OIL, TURPENTINE.—Still very firm, 30s. per cwt., being almost touched.

OPIMUM.—A fair business is doing here at unchanged rates **SMYRNA**, December 2.—The weekly sales amount to 43 cases, including 10 Karahissar, at the equivalent of 9s. 11d. per lb. for speculation, 20 cases New Holland at 10s. 7d., and 13 cases mixed talequales at 9s. 7d. and 9s. 10d., for exportation, c.i.f., European ports. The arrivals are 1,214 cases, against 3,015 cases last year. In spite of cloudy weather and a fresh fall in the barometer, little rain has fallen anywhere. Unseasonable heat prevails, and the situation is becoming critical daily.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 10.—Reports from the interior state that the position of this article is a very precarious one. Drought and frosts are killing the young plants, and the outlook for the coming crop is assuming a serious aspect. On the strength of this the market has assumed a much firmer tone, and the position of holders is being strengthened by these adverse reports. Sales for the past week amount to 50 cases up to 9s. 5d. per lb., f.o.b., for druggists' grades.

ORRIS.—Very flat, at 36s. per cwt., c.i.f., for the finest Florentine root.

PEREIRA BRAVA is very scarce, and the comparatively high price, 45s. per cwt., has been paid.

PLATINUM CHLORIDE.—Prices have been advanced on the Continent by 7 per cent. during the past ten days, owing to the increased value of the metal.

POTASH, BICHRIMATE.—We hear from Germany that the market there has been unfavorably affected, not only by large imports from England, but by newly-established factories, which are able to obtain a sufficient supply of raw material, and which are the real cause of lower prices. The official price is quoted at 62n. per 100 kilos.

POTASH PERMANGANATE.—Firm in some quarters, owing to one agent having received instructions not to offer, but at present there is no actual change in the quotations.

POTASH, PRUSSIAN.—English yellow is scarce, and firmly held at 6¾d. to 7d. per lb. on the spot for contract quantities.

QUININE.—Quiet; most makers have now advanced the price of sulphate to 10½d. per oz. in 100 tins in 1,000-oz. lots. Some German makers are not offering. Howards' price for the same package and quantities is 1s.; prices in 1-oz. vials are 2d. above these rates, and 1s. 3d. per oz. for 100-oz. lots. Imperial brand and Java make at 10d. Second-hand prices are unchanged; indeed, 10½d. has been refused for B. and S. on the spot, and 10¾d. is offered for March delivery. The makers have revised their prices for salts other than sulphate, and generally have recalculated on the quinine-hydrate content, so that some salts are advanced in price, and the remainder are (with the exception of hypophosphite, which has been reduced) as they were. The present quotations of the more important salts in 1-oz. vials are as follows:—Quinine benzoate, 1s. 9d.; bi-hydrobromide, 1s. 9d.; bi-hydrochloride, 1s. 8½d.; citrate, 1s. 7d.; hydrobromide, 1s. 6½d.; hydrochloride, 1s. 6½d.; hydrochloro-sulphate, 1s. 8½d.; hypophosphite, 2s. 3½d.; iodide, 1s. 10½d.; phosphate, 1s. 9d.; salicylate, 1s. 6½d. (physiologically pure), 1s. 10d.; sulphate, soluble, 1s. 3d.; sulpho-carbolate, 1s. 6½d.; tannate, 1s. 1d.; and valerianate, 1s. 9d. per oz.; 100-oz. lots in one tin are charged 4d. per oz. less.

SAFFRON.—New Valencia of best quality is selling at 33s 9d. per lb. c.i.f., or 35s. to 36s. spot in 100-lb. lots. The advance is due to the fluctuation of the exchange rate.

SCAMMONIUM.—Firsts (virgin) Turkish gum is quoted at from 25s. to 30s. per lb., but there is no demand. Root is offering at 22s. per cwt., and small sales are reported at this figure.

SENA.—Alexandria siftings have been sold at 2¼d. per lb. but otherwise the market is very inactive, and old crop is practically unsaleable. In Timnevelly transactions have been at sale rates, but second-hand holders are now asking a long advance on these.

SHELLAC.—A good supply of shellac was offered at auction on Tuesday, and mostly sold at or after the sales with fair competition at about 1s. advance for blocky second orange, fair TN being now quoted at 68s. and AC at 67s. The following were some of the prices realised:—fine pale orange, 71s. to 72s.; fair palish, 65s.; reddish, 64s.; ordinary red, mostly blocky, 62s. to 63s.; and common red, 61s. Bnton, good pale firsts, 81s.; fair seconds, 68s.; and common dark, 49s. to 50s. per cwt.

SPICES.—Pepper is rather firmer, but Cloves are weak and lower. At Wednesday's auctions Cochin Ginger partly sold at steady rates—cuttings at 13s.; dull small to fair washed rough, 21s. to 23s. 6d. per cwt.; small cut at 35s.; medium at 58s. 6d. to 59s. 6d.; and bold at 83s. per cwt. Zanzibar Cloves partly sold at 3½d. per lb. for fair. The delivery-market, although there have been fluctuations, is lower, with sellers at 3½d. per lb., for any position. Pimento continues dull, only one lot selling at 4½d. per lb. for fair. Nutmegs quiet, and Mace easy. Japan Chillies bought in at 47s. per cwt., Cassia-vera at 40s. per cwt., and Cassia-chips at 43s. per cwt. Cinnamon-chips partly sold at 4½d. per lb., and hard pieces at 4½d. per lb. Pepper firmer. Singapore black is quoted 4½d. per lb. on the spot, and 5d. per lb. has been paid for January-March shipment. Singapore white was bought in at 8½d. per lb. There are buyers of January-March steamer at 8½d., and of Penang at 7½d. for same position.

STAR ANISE.—For December-January shipment 90s. per cwt., c.i.f., is quoted, but supplies on the spot are almost *nil*; one case could be obtained at 180s., and a New York seller wants 230s. The shipments to the Continent from Canton and Hong-Kong from January 1 to November 12 were 1,047 boxes, against 2432 for the same period of 1897, 164 boxes 1896, and 2,875 for 1895.

SULPHUR.—Firm, but little doing. One of the largest importers quotes refined foreign flowers at 6l. 10s. 6d. to 6l. 12s. 6d. per ton, landed; others quote 6l. 7s. 6d., f.o.b., roll 6l., and recovered 95s. per ton, f.o.b.

TEA.—The month of November generally sees a succession of big Assam sales, and last month was no exception. In the early part of the month the auctions were rather too much for the market, and irregular prices resulted. Cheap teas offering stimulated the country demand, and this reacted on the market, hardening it slightly for teas under 8d.; but with such big sales it is difficult to establish firmer rates for anything, and now that the country demand is beginning to slacken before Christmas teas under 8d. are as cheap as ever, and some wonderful bargains have passed the hammer. Commonest leaf is quoted at 5d., and here and there broken and fannings can be picked up at 4½d. to 4¾d. Pekoes from 6d. to 8d. are now very reasonable, and cannot be bad stock. Ceylons were an awkward market all last month—very small sales, and with a constant demand from that portion of the trade which must have a certain supply. Ceylon prices have been far from tempting to buyers, and Ceylons under 8d., both leaf and broken, have been much dearer than Indians. Congous continue in short supply for lowest grades, and nothing in leaf-tea can be bought under 4½d. Capers are also very dear, and rubbish, which, a few months ago was hardly saleable at 2½d., cannot now be bought under 4½d., and is well competed for at that money.

TRAGAGANTH.—The business done last week amounted to about 30 cases, mostly fourths, at from 8l. to 10l. 7s. 6d. per cwt. Retail sales of medium hog-gum are reported at 46s., but inquiries have been mostly for lower grades.

VALERIAN.—Reports from Germany state that, on account of a short crop, prices this year have risen considerably, the Harz kind, which has just been gathered, realising 90m. per 100 kilos. A large proportion of the Thuringia crop has already been sold at high prices, as was the case last year.

VANILLA.—The market is very firm, and a good business has been done at advancing rates. Two brokers already announce sales for January 5, at which there will be a good supply of Mauritius and Seychelles.

WAX (BEES').—Good business has been done this week at the advanced rates obtained in auction on December 8.

WAX, JAPAN.—Quotations from Japan are easier, at 30s. 6d. to 31s. per cwt., c.i.f.; on the spot 33s. is asked, but this figure has not yet been paid.

Madagascar Tariff.

It is stated in official quarters that the French Government is desirous of so far amending the tariff in Madagascar as to restore to British trade some of the advantages which it lost when the island was annexed, though it is doubtful whether the compensation which France will ask for would be given by Great Britain.

Coming Events.

Monday, December 19.

The "Lom-bards" Society. Smoking-concert in the *Larga* Hall, Corn Exchange Tavern, Mark Lane, E.C., at 8 p.m. Mr. T. W. Tullett in the chair.

Tuesday, December 20.

Camwal. General meeting of the shareholders at Anderton's Hotel, 162 Fleet Street, E.C., at 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21.

Royal Microscopical Society, 20 Hanover Square, W., at 7.30 p.m. Exhibition of binocular microscopes, followed by a meeting.

Western Chemists' Association (of London), at 9 p.m. Meeting at the Westbourne Restaurant. The President will deliver an inaugural address, and there will be a discussion on the Federation proposals.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (North British Branch). Evening meeting at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 8.30 p.m. Mr. D. Brown will read a paper on "Lime as a Preservative for Chloroform"; Dr. Leonard Dobbin will give a "Criticism of some Chemical Matters in the new Pharmacopœia"; and Mr. J. Lothian will read a paper on "The Volumetric Operations of the Pharmacopœia."

Friday, December 23.

Glasgow School of Pharmacy. Annual supper in the North British Station Hotel, at 9 p.m., Mr. John Lothian in the chair.

Professor W. Ramsay, F.R.S., of London, is to lecture before the German Chemical Society, at Berlin, on December 19, on the "New Gases and their Relation to the Periodic Law."

Royal Institution.—The arrangements for lectures before Easter, at the Royal Institution, include a course by Dr. Allan Macfadyen, on "Toxins and Antitoxins," and by Lord Rayleigh on "The Mechanical Properties of Bodies." The Friday evening meetings begin on January 20, when Professor Dewar will discourse on "Liquid Hydrogen." 1899 being the centenary year of the Royal Institution, arrangements are being made to celebrate it in a fitting manner.

ADULTERATED MILK OF SULPHUR.—At Bradford on December 13, James S. Spence, grocer, was summoned for selling 6 cz. of milk of sulphur which was found to contain 50 per cent. of sulphate of lime. It appeared that the defendant had bought the milk of sulphur in 1896, and it was urged on his behalf that when changes were made in the law it was the duty of the officials concerned to acquaint traders with the fact before bringing cases into the police court. The Magistrates convicted the defendant, but intimated that, as it was the first case of the kind in the city, they would merely order him to pay the costs.

STORES' DISPENSERS CRITICISED.—At an inquest held at Ebury Bridge on December 14 respecting the death of Mrs. Maud Sabara Lawrence, of Stafford Street, Old Bond Street, who on Monday was found dead in her bedroom, evidence was given showing that she had been in the habit of taking chloral, which she obtained at the Junior Army and Navy Stores on a prescription given her husband, who died five years ago. Having their suspicions that deceased took this chloral, deceased's daughters had spoken to the chemist about it. John Fuller, chemist at the Junior Army and Navy Stores, did not recall the visit of anyone about the drug, but twelve months since a letter, signed by a Mr. Lawrence, had been received, saying the chloral was not strong enough. An assistant had immediately gone round to Stafford Street about the matter, but deceased had told him he could not see Mr. Lawrence. The usual doses had been continued. Deceased had a 12-oz. bottle a month. A daughter of the deceased said she told an assistant at York House that she thought the deceased was taking the drug. She asked that inquiries might be made. An assistant had called at the house and been told that he could not see Mr. Lawrence. The Coroner thought the assistants at the Stores ought to have made more inquiries. One juror thought the Stores ought to be censured, but the jury were divided in opinion, and merely returned a verdict of accidental death.